

**Yorkshire Naturalists' Union**

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**ORNITHOLOGICAL  
REPORT**  
**for**  
**1988**

**compiled by**  
**W. F. Curtis**

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# Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

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## Report for 1988 Edited by W.F. Curtis

During the year covered by this report a total of 292 species were recorded in the county of which 138 bred and a further five were thought to have done so. The year was an outstanding one as respects rarities with no fewer than six species being recorded for the first time in Yorkshire. Three of these, Giant Petrel and White-chinned Petrel, both at Flamborough and Mottled Swift at Spurn are all potential firsts for Britain, the latter two being potential firsts for Europe. The other three; Little Swift and Pied Wheatear, at Flamborough and Franklin's Gull, at Fairburn are all very rare in this country. At the time of writing however, only the Little Swift has been accepted by the relevant Records Committees. Even without these six species the year was a good one with three White-billed Divers; three Little Shearwaters; two each of Blue-winged Teal and Ring-necked Ducks whilst a single Surf Scoter was seen briefly along the coast. It was not, though, one of the best years for the scarcer raptors with only Red-footed Falcon putting in an appearance. Of the waders Collared Pratincole and Lesser Yellowlegs made brief calls at Bridlington and Fairburn respectively whilst the Ring-billed Gull at Flamborough was a more unusual record than its status in Britain would imply, in fact being rarer than the Ross's Gull also recorded at the same location. Three records each of Caspian and White-winged Black Terns were the most for many years.

The autumn brought another good showing of eastern passerines; a result of prolonged easterly weather systems during October with at least thirteen 13 Pallas's Warblers, four Radde's; three Greenish and a Dusky (some 120 Yellow-browed Warblers were also present during this period). Two Olive-backed Pipits; nine Richard's Pipits and the County's second Pine Bunting were also involved. Notwithstanding, birds of a more southerly origin were not over-shadowed with Purple Heron; Alpine Swift; Bee Eater; Red-rumped Swallow; Subalpine Warbler and Serin all recorded.

Of the more common species several were recorded in numbers higher than previously reported; these being Manx Shearwater; Leach's Petrel; Tufted Duck; Whimbrel and Puffin. Skuas again had a record year with Long-tailed, Arctic and Great all being reported in numbers higher than during any other year this century.

Good numbers of Red Kites; Spotted Crakes; Ruff; Pomarine Skuas; Sabine's Gulls and Roseate Terns were also reported. A large influx of thrushes occurred in late October, particularly noted along the coast though several inland locations also reported very high numbers moving through. Goldcrests were also present during this period in large numbers



whilst Red-breasted Flycatcher and Icterine Warbler were reported inland. Individuals of Redstart; Black Redstart; Ring Ouzel and Stonechat showing characteristics of eastern or southeastern races were also reported during this period.

Breeding species also fared well though details of several were not fully reported and for some no information was received at all. Black-necked Grebe still has a tenuous hold as does Red-breasted Merganser and Garganey though with this latter species it must be stressed that no information has been received from the Lower Derwent. This lack of information from the York area also accounts for the lack of details of any possibility of breeding by two of our rare waders, Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff. Gannet continues to increase at Bempton now at the expense of the Guillemots whose ledges are now being taken over though as yet no definite indications are at hand of any decrease in numbers of the latter as a result of the increase of Gannet numbers. Both Goosander and Ruddy Duck continue to increase though, as stated in previous reports, the former is still subject to persecution by conflicting interests in some areas. Sparrowhawk continues to increase whilst Goshawk would appear to be doing so though man is still inflicting a terrible toll on this species in some areas. There are signs however that it is about to 'break out' of its confines and hopefully the next few years will see an appreciable increase. Peregrine had mixed fortunes but at least is holding its own. Of the passerines; Black Redstart is unchanged in the larger urban areas whilst records of Nightingale were not forthcoming. Nightjar records were also incomplete though no adverse comments were received.

The Editor regrets that this report is incomplete in that records from the very important area of the Lower Derwent have not been received. This has the result that comments concerning the status and numbers of both wildfowl and waders wintering and breeding are affected.

The Reports Committee wishes to express its gratitude to local recorders and the very many individuals throughout Yorkshire who have submitted their records to the YNU. As Editor I would also extend my thanks for the assistance given by the VC Recorders in the compilation of this report.

Bill Curtis March 1990

## Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire

As stated in the 1987 Report, we are still experiencing difficulties in collecting information for the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder or to the Report Editor or direct to the panel if the observer so wishes. The system used by the panel for indicating geographic locations is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of 'England North' though should the observer request omission of the county name the panel will respect that wish and use the regional name only.

A full list of species considered by the panel appeared in *British Birds* 81: 102-103. Species that are known to have bred or to have attempted to breed in the county in recent years for which the panel requests data are listed below.

Black-necked Grebe	Hobby
Little Bittern	Quail
Pintail	Corncrake
Garganey	Ruff
Pochard	Black-tailed Godwit
Honey Buzzard	Little Gull
Marsh Harrier	Black Redstart
Montagu's Harrier	Fieldfare
Goshawk	Parrot Crossbill

The writer apologises for giving the panel an incorrect title in the 1987 Report. The Rare Breeding Birds Panel is sponsored mainly by the N.C.C. with further contributions

from the R.S.P.B. and the B.T.O., with its annual report being published in *British Birds*. Panel report forms are available from Vice-County Recorders or Robert Spencer, R.B.B. Panel, Iredale Place Cottage, Loweswater, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0SU.

J.E. Dale March 1990

### **Yellow-legged Gulls**

On 31st December 1988 an adult Herring Gull with yellow legs was found dead at Ardsley Res. (V.C. 63). The bird was a female; was fat and showed no visible cause of death.

The legs and feet were bright yellow with the distal part of the webs tinged orange. Bill was bright yellow with a large red spot on the gonys extending onto the upper mandible. Orbital ring, vermillion; iris dull yellow with an orange tinge; gape bright orange. Mantle was darker than *argenteus* though not as dark as some *michahellis*.

Biometrics: wing 428 mm: tarsus 62 mm: bill 52 mm.

The bird was examined by J. R. Mather and later by the British Museum (Natural History). It was found to be either *L.a.cachinnans* or *L.a.michahellis* but could not be definitely assigned to one or the other. It is thus suggested that great caution should be exercised by observers when confronted by one of these southern races. The YNU Records Committee would therefore suggest that these birds be reported as 'yellow-legged Herring Gulls, showing the characteristics of one of the southern races' pending further taxonomic information regarding this complex group.

### **Yorkshire Naturalists' Union**

Individuals interested in joining the Union should write to either the Administrative Officer, Mr D. Bramley or the Treasurer, Mr J. D. Hind

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## Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in this report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers, and have also been accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* where applicable unless otherwise stated. The sequence and nomenclature used is that of Voous K. H., *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1973 and 1977). B.O.U. 1977.

### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

On the coast, small numbers at Flamborough during the early months with 47 on 9th January; 59 on 6th March; 67 on 13th and 64 on 19th. Slightly higher counts from Hornsea with 123 on 30th January; 100 on 19th February, 85 on 26th; 79 on 12th March and 90 on 19th. 27 at Flamborough on 2nd April after which numbers at all locations were below ten until a similar count at this same site on 14th September 59 were counted there on 15th September with up to 47 on many days until 63 on 29th October followed by 55 the next day. 50 on 13th November, 148 on 19th, 87 on 20th with 63 on 26th. In December, 80 on the 3rd and 72 on 10th. Smaller counts off Hornsea during these latter months with 56 on 18th November as the maximum. c100 flew south at Gas Platform 47/3B (off Withernsea) on 28th October.

Spurn again recorded lower counts during the year although most birds were reported as simply divers; 72 on 12th March was the maximum during the early months with 33 on 24th September and 40 on 30th October being the highest totals in the latter months.

The only large numbers reported from north of Flamborough were 53 off Filey in November and 56 off Staithes on 20th November.

Single birds were reported flying west up the Humber at Sunk Island on 19th, 26th and 27th November whilst on the 27th one was reported from the Trent/Ouse confluence at Blacktoft eventually flying east into the Humber.

Single birds were reported from Hornsea Mere on 6th and 7th of February; Tophill Low Res. on 15th September and from 8th to 26th December; from Pugney's G.P. on 27th December; from Newfield School playing field (Sheffield) on 2nd December, being released on Lady Bower Res. Eccup Res. had one on 17th and 18th May; from 29th September to 8th October (when found dead); on 21st December with two reported flying west there on 4th October.

### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

One to three birds recorded along the coast during the winter months at nine locations with higher counts at Flamborough where six on 20th March; four at Hornsea on 19th March and seven on 20th. In the latter months only Flamborough reported more than three with four on 29th October; five the following day; six on 2nd November and five on the 2nd December. One at Spurn on 31st May; at Flamborough on 6th June; 30th and 31st July; 9th and 22nd August with one off Bempton on 20th August.

The only records from inland were of single birds in the Sheffield area; at Howden Res., in summer plumage, on 17th May (KRG) and the Rother Valley C.P. on 21st November (KC).

### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Slightly more records during the latter months of the year than the first half. Flamborough reported single birds on 3rd January; 27th February; 8th and 17th March with two on 14th March and 2nd April. One there on 9th April. At Hornsea single birds were seen on 10th February; 3rd, 4th, 5th, 13th and 19th March (GRB, BR). At Filey singles on 13th March (CE, MH), 29th May (DJS) and off the Brigg on 2nd July (HJW *et al*). Six records at

Spurn during this period, all of single birds, on 3rd and 4th January; 20th February; 12th March; 2nd April and 31st May.

The latter months saw two at Flamborough on 14th September; two on 29th October, three the following day with single birds in September on 19th; 24th and 25th; in October on 1st; 8th; 10th and 31st and during November on 15th; 19th; 20th and 21st (PAL, AMA, BR, DGH *et al*). Two at Hornsea on 20th November with one on 26th October; 9th and 18th November (GRB, BR). Spurn recorded two on 30th October and single birds on 9th September; 1st; 8th and 28th October with one record in November, on the 2nd. Single birds at Filey on 14th September (PJD *et al*); 5th; 18th and 19th Novembr (DB, HJW, CCT *et al*) and in December on 7th (PJD) and in the bay on 17th and 18th (HJW *et al*).

In V.C. 62, single birds were reported from Cornelian Bay on 14th November (MFr): both Scarborough and Staithes on 20th (TE, MJH); Scarborough Harbour/South Bay on 21st and 23rd (DB) and at Scarborough on 11th December (MFr).

#### **White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii***

An adult in Filey Bay during most of 11th March and all the following day. (HJW *et al*). An immature off Flamborough on 9th April (AMA, DGH) with an adult there on 19th November (PAL, JCL, SRS).

The Flamborough birds are still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

#### **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

In V.C. 61 bred at Filey Dams; Primrose Valley; Bridlington; Kilham; Burdale; Saltend and Skeffling with three to four pairs present along the River Hull between Wansford and Driffield during the summer. This area being the stronghold of this species in this V.C. with up to 20 birds present in the winter months. Further south along the river 16 to 18 were counted near Tophill Low Res. from 1st November to the end of the year with 22 on 7th December. Eight at Hornsea Mere on 20th April, seven on Marfleet Drain (Hull) on 22nd November with seven at Easington Lagoons on 7th April and six on the Humber shore at Easington on 5th November.

One or two birds reported from six locations in V.C. 62 with no reports of breeding being received.

A higher count of breeding pairs in V.C. 63 no doubt due to better coverage giving 89 pairs at 27 locations; 95 young were hatched from 37 of these pairs. Maxima at the favoured locations being 41 at Wath Ings on 24th July with 32 there in mid April; 27 at Edderthorpe on 13th August and 36 at Wintersett Res. on 1st October.

V.C. 64 reported a varied breeding season with only seven pairs at Fairburn Ings producing six young whilst elsewhere 26 pairs bred with mixed success. It would appear that there is no change of status in this V.C. with autumn peaks of 30 at Mickletown Ings on 20th August; 18 at Fairburn Ings on 15th October and 12 at Chelker Res. on 10th September.

Bred in V.C. 65 at Bolton-on-Swale (one pair); Hackford (two pairs); Snape (one pair); Newton-le-Willows (one); Kirby Fleetham (one) and Stapleton Pond (two pairs). A total of four young being reared. Maxima at Bolton-on-Swale being 11 on 28th January, 32 on 12th September and 19 on 17th December.

#### **Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

Breeding occurred in V.C. 61 at Hornsea Mere where four pairs fledged four young; at Tophill Low Res. (one pair, three young); Keyingham G.P. (two pairs, five young) and Burstwick G.P. (two pairs, five young). Maximum count at Hornsea Mere being 19 on 17th July with at least 12 at Tophill Low Res. during the period May to July.

No counts of the wintering flock in Bridlington Bay were received though further south along the coast at Hornsea 36 were on the sea on 14th February with 42 on 17th and 56 between Hornsea and Atwick on 27th. 46 at Hornsea on 28th and 32 at Atwick on 4th March. c50 off Cowden on 28th August.

In V.C. 62, six pairs were at Castle Howard on 3rd April though no further details are available. One to three birds reported from a further five locations in this V.C..

V.C. 63 reported 67 pairs at 30 locations with 98 young being reared from 42 of these pairs; additionally a further ten pairs may have reared young though details are not forthcoming. High counts from this V.C. being 24 at Wintersett Res. on 6th March with 33 there on 17th September and 36 on 1st October; 28 at Bretton Park on 30th April; 24 at Wentworth on 11th April; 30 at Treeton Dyke on 5th June and 20 in the Rother Valley C.P. on 20th May.

V.C. 64 reported mixed success with breeding; a total of 41 pairs are known to have bred with some rearing four young whilst others failed completely. Up to four birds present at a few locations during January/February after which numbers increased with a maximum count of 40 at Fairburn Ings on 6th April. Autumn peaks reported were 45 at Swillington Ings on 30th August with up to 31 at Fairburn in late July and 27 at Eccup Res. in August. Owing to the mild weather during the latter weeks of the year one to four birds were reported from many locations at the end of December.

Six pairs bred in V.C. 65 – four at Bolton-on-Swale; one at Masham and one at Glesby G.P. a total of four young being reared. Being quite scarce in this V.C. the only other record was of a single bird at Nosterfield on 6th March. A bird considered to be a hybrid Great Crested Grebe x Red-necked Grebe was present off Hornsea from 14th February to 3rd March (GRB)

#### **Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena***

Reported from the coast during the periods January to March and again from July to December. At Staithes; one was present on 16th February with two north there on 2nd October and one on 16th December (JLo, MJH). Saltwick Nab had singles on 1st October and 19th November (MJH); Scalby Mills, a single on 16th September (AJW, KW) with one at Scarborough on 1st and 3rd October (AJW, KW).

Flamborough reported two on 9th January with one on 23rd and 30th; 5th and 13th March; 12th and 16th July; 3rd and 8th August; 13th and 14th September with five on 15th September and two on the 25th. In October, single birds were noted on 1st; 2nd; 5th; 8th; 26th and 28th with two on the 29th and 30th. One on 20th November and 11th December (PAL, AMA, DGH *et al*). Two off Hornsea on 28th February with one on 7th and 27th; 5th; 6th; 12th; 13th and 27th March; 11th October and 18th November (GRB). Not reported from Filey during the early months of the year. One there on 10th and 15th September; other single birds off-shore during the last week of this month and one present in the bay throughout October and the following two months being last seen on 29th December. Singles at Spurn on 9th September; 26th and 30th October.

Away from the coast single birds were recorded from Hornsea Mere on 30th October and 6th November (RSPB); Tophill Low Res. on 4th and 5th March (MCh); on the River Wharfe, in V.C. 64, on 18th January with a juvenile at Otley G.P. from 15th October to 15th November and what was considered to be the same bird at Knotford Nook on 29th November. One at Scorton Quarry in V.C. 65 from 15th to 23rd October.

*Addition to the 1987 Report:* One at Denaby Ings on 8th and 9th February.

#### **Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus***

Single birds were reported from the coast on 24th February at Aldbrough (TM); 24th April at Filey (HJW *et al*); Flamborough on 23rd July (AMA, DGH); Cornelian Bay, Scarborough on 14th November (MFr) and Flamborough on 17th December (AMA).

Away from the coast, one at Hornsea Mere on 20th April (SML); Tophill Low Res. on 9th April with another bird on 29th (IF, PMS, RC, EA *et al*); one there from 3rd October until 22nd November. In V.C. 63 at Ardsley Res. on 20th March (DW, MW, JM *et al*); Blackmoorfoot Res. from 2nd to 17th March (MLD, JMP); Wintersett Res. from 17th to 24th April (SD, PM *et al*).

In V.C. 64, the bird at Chelker Res. first reported in December 1987 was present until 4th January; one at Otley G.P. from 9th to 11th April (AGG) and one at Fairburn Ings from 10th December until the end of the year. (RE *et al*).

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

One pair reared three young at a site in the Doncaster area whilst another pair were present and displaying at a site in the Sheffield area in mid May.

In V.C. 61, Hornsea Mere recorded four birds on 7th August (BP) with three from 8th until 12th and two until 24th (GRB *et al*); one on 11th September (TDC); two from 24th October until 28th with one the following day (GRB *et al*) whilst on the 29th one was reported from the sea at Hornsea. Single birds at Tophill Low Res. on 4th April (IF, TR *et al*); 13th August (RL *et al*) and from the 16th to 18th September and again on 21st (DWC *et al*). One at Wheldrake Ings from 14th to 17th May (DAR, DW, TED *et al*). One in summer plumage on the Humber at Spurn on 14th May was only the second record for the Observatory.

V.C. 62 reported one in summer plumage in Scarborough Harbour from 9th to 14th April (AJW, MFr); one at Clifton Airfield near York on 31st May (SR) whilst in V.C. 63, apart from the breeding birds above, three were at Winterset Res. on 24th April with two there on 29th (KD, SD, PS *et al*). Single birds were reported from Thrybergh Res. on 22nd April (KH); Wombwell Ings on 16th July (JMT, TF *et al*) and what was considered to be this same bird at Edderthorpe from 18th July to 1st August (JCC *et al*).

In V.C. 64, one at Fairburn Ings on 9th and 21st March; three there on 23rd April (considered to be the birds seen at Winterset Res. the following day) returning on 25th remaining until 29th. Single at Farnham G.P. on 15th May. Singles at Staveley on 11th September and at Knotford Nook on 30th September.

A good spring reported from V.C. 65 with single birds at Bolton-on-Swale from the 6th to 9th April and 2nd May; at Masham G.P. from 22nd to 23rd April and at Stapleton Ponds on 21st and 22nd May. An excellent series of records from Nosterfield with four on 5th and 6th April; two from 7th to 9th with three from 10th to 17th with one to the 19th. One from 4th to 5th May with a different bird on the 8th and 9th.

*Addition* to the 1984 Report: two at Castle Howard on 1st May (JP)

*Addition* to the 1987 Report: one at Southfield Res. on 16th June (AS)

**Giant Petrel** *Macronectes sp*

An immature off Flamborough Head on 4th July (PAL) could not be attributed to either the northern or southern species. Under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

No comments on breeding numbers received this year. Flamborough and Filey again reported large numbers with the former recording 2500 on 23rd January; 2000 on 28th February; 2580 on 12th March; 3660 on 9th May; 4460 on 9th June; 4150 on 15th July with 7500 the following day; 2800 on 17th August; 7280 on 14th September; 2570 on 19th November and 2400 on 10th December. Again very scarce during October with birds being reported on only three days with a total of five birds. A similar pattern was reported from Filey with maxima of 500 per hour on 18th January and a similar movement on 19th March. As with Flamborough, very few during October. Hornsea and Spurn likewise reported the same pattern albeit with smaller totals; the highest count at Hornsea being 763 on 14th September with 118 at Spurn on the same date as their maximum. 'Blue' phased birds were reported during every month from Flamborough, usually involving one to three individuals though 13 were reported on 9th April with 11 on 17th September and eight on 30th. Five single birds were reported at Filey between mid April and mid May with one at Bridlington on 18th September and one at Bempton on 28th April.

Along the Humber at Sunk Island one flew west on 30th July with one west and six east on 13th August; 11 over the river on 14th with one east on 20th; two on 21st; three on 27th and one on 28th. One was reported from the Ouse/Trent confluence on 8th June and recorded as departing eastwards. One flew west at Fairburn Ings on 13th October whilst in V.C. 65 two were present at Pen Hill 'for several days in June'.

**White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

A single bird was seen independently by PAL and AMA off Flamborough on 24th July. Under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*

A very good year. A single bird at Flamborough on 14th May with two there on 29th June (PAL). One south at Spurn on 15th July and three north there on 29th (TMC, NAB). Single birds at Flamborough during August on 2nd (PAL, JCL); 12th (BR); 14th (KR; MKR); 15th (PAL); 19th and 20th (PAL); and 22nd (AMA, PAL, JCL, GC, GT). One at Hornsea on 21st August (GRB) and one at Flamborough on 18th September (JCL). On 18th November one flew north at Filey at 0920 (PJD) and what was no doubt the same bird was seen flying south at Hornsea at 1053 (GRB) and at Spurn at 1220 (BRS).

**Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*

Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 9th (PAL) and 20th September (JCL) and at Hornsea on 18th November (GRB). Another poor year.

**Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

Rather a poor year with the first record concerning two off Flamborough on the 14th July thereafter 18 birds were reported there on seven further days of that month. Single birds were reported at Hornsea on the 16th and 30th. In August this species was recorded almost daily at Flamborough with peak counts of 96 on 21st; 206 on 22nd; 61 on 23rd and 36 on the 26th. Scarborough recorded 17 to the north on the 21st with 19 passing north at Filey this same day; the first bird of the year only being reported here on the 16th. Recorded on 22 days during September at Flamborough with high counts of 98 on the 13th; 316 on 14th after which 36 on 30th was the next highest number. The movement of the 14th was reported at other locations along the coast with 151 at Hornsea; 57 at Filey and 32 off Spurn. Filey had recorded 41 on the previous day. Smaller numbers during October with 12 at Flamborough on 8th and 11 on the 29th. Occasionally reported during November with four at Flamborough on the 19th and five the following day. Single birds were also reported from Filey and Spurn on the former of these days with one at Filey again on the 20th when three flew north off Hornsea.

A single bird was reported flying east off Sunk Island on 4th September with one west there on the 10th (JW).

**Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Five off Flamborough on 9th April were the first of the year, thereafter small numbers until late May when 36 were reported on the 27th. Almost daily there during June with 302 on the 5th; 102 on 23rd and 192 on 29th; 198 reported off Hornsea on the 28th. Large counts in July particularly during mid month with Flamborough recording 205 on the 13th; 103 on 14th; 1501 on 15th and 1803 on the 16th (this being the highest count for Yorkshire). Other localities along the coast reported similar movements with 146 north at Scarborough on the 15th; 147 on 13th and 289 on 15th at Filey; 324 on 14th; 876 on 15th and 168 on 16th at Hornsea; 87 at Grimston on 15th; 199 north and 111 south at Spurn on 15th with 51 north the following day. Recorded almost daily at Flamborough during August with 116 on 1st; 251 on 2nd; 118 on 4th; 927 on 22nd; 535 on 23rd. 405 reported at Filey on the 22nd with 307 north at Spurn that day. Fewer birds during September with peak counts at Flamborough of 177 on 13th; 475 on 14th and 159 on the 24th. On the 14th, 35 were reported from spurn with 356 north at Hornsea and 183 off Filey. 106 off Staithes on the 2nd. Scarce during October with 71 at Flamborough on the 8th as the only record of note. Few in November with five at Flamborough and one at Hornsea on 19th; two each at Flamborough and Filey on the 20th, thereafter one bird at Flamborough on 26th November; 2nd and 6th December.

Two seen along the Humber at Sunk Island on 10th September whilst inland one was found near Keighley in September (no date) being released at Heysham; one following the River Don in a southwesterly direction at Blackburn Meadows (near Sheffield) on 29th

August; one found at Langcliffe near Settle on 31st August was released the following day; one at Fairburn Ings on 4th September and one each at Sawley and Harrogate during the latter days of this month, both being released on the coast.

Birds of the race *P.p.mauretanicus* were reported from Spurn 24th July and 1st August (two birds in each case); at Hornsea with two north on both 15th and 16th July; three north on 14th September. At Flamborough quite frequent with two on 31st July; one on 4th; 5th; 14th; 20th; 21st; 23rd and 30th August with three on both 7th and 22nd. Two on 14th September with single birds there on 4th; 6th; 10th; 15th; 30th; in October on 9th and 30th and November on the 6th. One at Filey on 30th August.

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*

One flew north at Cowden on 8th September (WFC). One north at Flamborough on 9th August (JCL, PAL, GAS) with one at Hornsea on 2nd November (JCW). (Both the Flamborough and Hornsea birds have been accepted by the YNU; the former is under consideration by the *British Birds* Records Committee whilst the latter has been rejected by them. The Cowden bird has been accepted by both.)

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 16th July (AMA) and on the 28th October (PAL). One at Spurn on 8th October. One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th November (KAN, GT).

**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leuconota*

Single birds at Spurn on 14th and 24th September. One there on 8th October was over the Humber. One at Flamborough on 7th October (JCL, PAL). 15 south and one north at Hornsea on 11th October with a further seven petrels probably of this species also south there that day (WFC, GRB) – this is the highest number ever recorded in Yorkshire. Three south at Hornsea on 12th (GRB) with one south at Filey on the same day (JH, DJS, HJW *et al.*).

Unidentified petrels were also reported from Spurn on 13th September and 18th November.

**Gannet** *Sula bassana*

Counts of the Bempton colony on 4th August gave an average number of occupied nests of 810. From sample counts carried out it is estimated that 653 young fledged. The main gannetry extended eastwards to Bartlett Nab with a new satellite colony being formed half a mile away on the Scale Nab Arch where many of the resident Guillemots were forced out.

Counts at Flamborough followed previous years with numbers below 500 until early June excepting 1160 on 30th April. Higher numbers reported during the summer months being 2250 on 15th July with 1707 the following day; 2340 on 21st August; 1820 on 22nd; 4418 on 14th September (the highest count ever for Yorkshire); 1239 on 15th with 1572 on 23rd as the last count of over 1000. 945 were reported on 1st October with 875 on 11th thereafter small numbers throughout the remainder of the month; fewer in November and scarce in December. A similar pattern was observed at other locations along the coast with maxima at Filey of 441 in April; 634 in September and 660 during October although these counts were only samples covering a small period of time (one or two hours). Maxima at Hornsea were 128 on 28th June; 152 on 15th July; 490 on 21st August; 614 on 14th September and 119 on 11th October. 160 at Spurn on 21st August with over 100 on seven days of September; 354 on the 2nd being the highest count.

Frequently reported from the Humber at Sunk Island with 32 west on 3rd September; 18 west on 10th; five west on 18th. Two east on 8th October. Further upstream, one flew west at Blacktoft on 29th August whilst inland at Elland G.P. one flew southwest on 5th September.

*Addition to the 1987 Report:* one southwest over Moss Valley (near Sheffield) on 8th October.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

20 pairs bred at Gristhorpe near Filey otherwise no comments received concerning breeding.

Highest counts from along the coast came from Flamborough with 65 on 5th March; 78 on 12th March. During the latter months; 91 on 27th August; 74 on both 10th and 12th September with 153 on 25th and 72 on 1st October. The highest counts at Filey being 53 during August and 62 in September. 43 at Spurn on 6th September being their maximum. The tree roost at Hornsea Mere increased during the early months to peak at 110 on 14th February; no counts available for the latter months. Tophill Low Res. reported a return to numbers of some eight years ago with up to 20 in April and 19 during November and December. One to eight regularly commuted along the Humber at Sunk Island during all months excepting June whilst 12 were present in Hull Docks on 26th February and 30 there on 27th March.

Many records from V.C. 63 particularly Blacktoft where birds were reported on most days with maxima of ten on 5th January; 18 on 29th March and nine on 25th December. 12 flew west at Wintersett Res. on 28th March with ten southeast there on 17th September; seven at Thrybergh Res. on 7th April with many of the other reservoirs reporting one to five on one or more dates.

Recorded from 29 locations in V.C. 64 during every month of the year, mostly one or two birds being involved and usually during spring and autumn. Peak counts being seven at Fairburn Ings on 20th April with eight at Farnham on 27th February and the same number on 28th March.

In V.C. 65 reported regularly from Bolton-on-Swale until 14th June and again from 9th September with 29 on 27th February; 33 on 5th March; 16 on 26th November and 26 on 18th December. Thornton Steward also reported birds until 17th June and again from 6th October with maxima there of 22 on 18th March and 19 on 10th December.

Birds considered to belong to the race *P.c. sinensis* were recorded at Flamborough on 20th and 26th March; 1st; 6th April with two on the 9th; three on 17th and finally one on 25th. Three were at Hornsea Mere on 14th February with four on both 26th and 27th March. Two over the sea at Hornsea on 14th February (no doubt these were also at the Mere), with three on 6th March. One flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 12th March. Reported on six days between 28th March and 6th May at Tophill Low Res. with two on 8th May carrying colour rings, originating in Holland and Denmark.

In V.C. 63 a single bird of this race was at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th March with three at Blacktoft on 29th and one there on 3rd April. V.C. 64 had single birds at Chelker Res. on 28th March and Knotford Nook on 10th April.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At least 12 occupied nests at Bempton.

848 at Flamborough on 1st January with 580 on 9th and 640 on 23rd. 500 on 6th February; 921 on 20th; 375 on 27th thereafter low counts with 78 on 12th March as highest. Many dead birds found here during February and March, mainly first winter, the cause not yet being known. 102 reported on 23rd July though the usual October influx was not apparent with 68 on 2nd and 100 on 22nd. Small numbers during November with an influx bringing 128 on 19th and 242 on 20th. 102 on 3rd December and 139 on 24th.

74 off Hornsea on 11th February with 90 on 13th and 88 on 14th; 71 at Spurn on 6th March otherwise no other location reported more than 60 on any one day.

Inland, in V.C. 63, single birds were reported from Pugney's on 12th March; near Keighley from 12th to 15th March; Thorpe Marsh 17th March; Worsbrough Res. 22nd March; Brighouse from 30th March to 18th April with another from 29th September to 15th October; Sprotbrough Flash 3rd July; Wintersett Res. 4th September and Damflask Res. on 13th November. V.C. 64 reported single birds at Fairburn Ings on 9th January and Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd March. One found exhausted in Harrogate in late September.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

Hornsea Mere reported single birds on several days between 10th January and 9th March and again from the 5th October until the end of the year. One at Filey Dams on 29th and 30th October was the first record for this area. One at Spurn on 3rd January being only the second record for the Observatory. Two at Blacktoft on 6th January with one on 11th and 30th September. Two on 1st October after which one was reported on six days until the 30th. One at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd October being the first record for this location. Two at Fairburn Ings from 30th October until the end of the year.

*Addition to the 1987 Report:* One at Potteric Carr on five days between 3rd January and 14th March.

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A single, colour ringed immature (right leg: white-red-yellow; left leg: white) was at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough from 17th to 19th September when it moved to the Valley Road Pond where it was reported intermittently until being killed by a car on 23rd November (MFr, AJW).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Bred at Scampston, in V.C. 61, with 20 nests; at Sleightholmedale with 13+ nests and Cockrah Wood, Scarborough, nine nests, in V.C. 62; Bretton Park, seven nests; Wentworth, 14 nests; plus two other locations near Sheffield, in V.C. 63. In V.C. 64 at Settle with 20 nests, Dob Park, 22+ nests, North Stainley, ten, and Dacre Banks with 15 nests. At least three pairs at Great Langton in V.C.65.

Small numbers throughout V.C. 61 away from Scampston with eight at Easington Lagoons on 18th June and nine there on 9th July as maxima. 19 at Wath with 17 at Thorpe Marsh were the highest counts in V.C. 63 away from breeding locations whilst in V.C. 64, 18 were at Fairburn Ings on 18th June and 23 on 29th October with 27 on 27th December at Swillington Ings. Single birds were reported from Gas Platform 47/3B on 16th August and 1st December. The all white bird was present at Potteric Carr throughout 1987 and 1988.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

One at Bishopthorpe Ings/Naburn Sewage Works on 9th January (DP) with an adult at Flamborough on 15th June (JCL, PAL) and an immature at Blacktoft on 7th May (AG).

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

A single bird north at Tophill Low Res. on 28th April (RL *et al*) with one south at Flamborough on 14th May (PAL). Single adult at Pugney's on 15th April; adult at Blacktoft from 28th April to 2nd May (AG) with another there from 14th to 24th May. A wandering immature was in the Barnsley/Doncaster area from 30th August to 7th September visiting Pugney's on 30th; 3rd and 6th September; Wintersett on 30th; Broomhill Flash also on 30th remaining in this area but calling at Wath and Wombwell until 2nd September and again on 6th finally being reported from Worsbrough Res. on 7th.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Reported breeding in V.C. 61 at Hornsea Mere; Driffield Canal; Haverfield Quarries; Faxfleet Ponds; Tophill Low Res. and Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea. In V.C. 62, at three locations in the Scarborough area; V.C. 63, 15 pairs bred or attempted to breed at 14 locations of which nine pairs raised 34 young; 31 pairs in V.C. 64 with 85+ young being reared. Four pairs at Bolton-on-Swale in V.C. 65 where three pairs reared 12 young out of 17 hatched.

Peak counts at Hornsea Mere were 87 on 25th June increasing to 107 by 28th, 120 on 8th July with 113 on 21st then 119 on 7th August. Elsewhere in V.C. 61 up to 46 on the Driffield Canal; up to 40 at Catwick and 35 at Beacon Lane Ponds with no other location reporting more than 15. In V.C. 63. Ellerthorpe Flash reported the highest counts with 49 on 12th January and 50 on 5th December; 41 on Cudworth Common on 24th November

with Wath Ings frequently recording more than 20. Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, held 117 on 30th March increasing to 141 by 27th May; 221 on 25th June; 216 on 29th July; 239 on 13th August thereafter decreasing to 150 by 3rd September and 111 on 3rd December. 38 at Swillington Ings on 29th October was the only other count of note in this V.C.. The maximum count at Bolton-on-Swale was 33 on 3rd December.

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*

Very scarce in V.C. 61 with 20 at Spurn on 17th March being the only record during the early months. Four at Flamborough on 6th October on which day seven flew south at Spurn. Nine at Tophill Low Res. from 26th to 28th November and again on 8th December. One to two at Filey on three days with two at Tophill Low Res. on 5th/6th November; one at Hornsea Mere on 28th October. Along the River Idle at Misson (Yorks/Notts boundary), 51 were reported on 27th January with 80 to 90 between 7th and 17th February; 32 there on 27th November. Eight at Blacktoft on 5th and 21st January with three on 7th and 8th; five west there on 19th February. Eight there on 3rd November with five at Harthill Res. on 27th October; five at Broomhead Res. on 3rd December with five at Pugney's the following day. Four at Pugney's on 8th November; four at Blacktoft on 27th December. Seven at Leventhorpe (Leeds) on 4th March with 36 over Tingley on 11th. Fairburn Ings reported three on 8th/9th January; two on 11th February; four on the 14th and five on 15th. Three on 17th October, five southeast there on 30th October with 11 on 19th November. In V.C. 65, five at Nosterfield from 5th to 12th November; four at Bolton-on-Swale from 5th November to the end of the year also being reported from Kirby Fleetham with two at Thornton Steward on 3rd December.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Few records from V.C. 61 with six at Hornsea Mere on 23rd January; ten flying east at Sunk Island on 21st February and two east there on 5th March. In the latter months; 11 at Hornsea Mere on 28th October; four there on 27th November, five on 5th December with the 'tame' bird present all year. Two at Tophill Low Res. on 28th October; two on 20th, nine on 23rd, three on 25th and two on 27th November with a single bird on 10th December. Four east at Sunk Island on 29th October whilst at Spurn four passed south offshore on 7th October; three over the Humber on 29th with one south the following day. Five southeast on 5th November.

None reported from V.C. 62 but in V.C. 63, one to eight at 11 locations during the early months with higher counts as follows; 22 at Edderthorpe Flash on 9th January; 19 at Wath Ings from 9th to 23rd January increasing to 26 until 31st thence 34 on 1st to 3rd February; 26 until 28th March though 29 were present on 10th March. 30 at Kellingley on 6th February with 30 at Willowgarth on 24th January. In the latter months two to 13 at 12 locations with 23 at Edderthorpe Flash on 22nd December; 20 at Old Bank End on 10th December whilst at Wath Ings eight were present on 29th October being regularly recorded with 17 on 22nd/23rd November but only one to two during December.

In V.C. 64, low numbers reported from Fairburn Ings during the early months with about 54 until the end of March; peak being 63 on 6th March, decreasing to 19 by early April with a single bird from 27th to 23rd May. Two on October 2nd being the first returning birds increasing to 36 by 30th thence 68 on 13th November with maximum of 72 on 4th December. Elsewhere 29 locations reported small numbers during both winters with Hellifield having birds present until 9th April peaking at 36 on 12th March.

In V.C. 65, the herd at Bolton-on-Swale which also frequently visited Great Langton had 18 birds during January; 25 in February with ten in March and the last one on 2nd April. During the latter months, one there on 9th October increasing to 22 by 29th thence 20 during November and 25 in December. A first winter bird in this herd had been ringed on 7th August at Skagafjordur in Iceland. Smaller numbers were reported from Kirby Fleetham being considered to be different birds from the above. Two at Leyburn on 12th March with one at Leighton Res. on 5th March and five west over Richmond on 30th April.

**Bean Goose *Anser fabilis***

Two at Wheldrake on 10th January with one there on 10th December. One on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 17th February whilst five flying north at Spurn on 29th October were only the fourth record for the Observatory. In V.C. 63 the nine near Ingbirchworth remained from 1987 until 19th February and may be the nine seen at Ringstone Edge Res. on 5th January. One west at Blacktoft on 26th February. One at Fairburn Ings on 26th January.

**Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus***

Four reports of large numbers in V.C. 61 with 87 south at Spurn on 27th October; 73 east on 19th November and 150 northwest on 29th December. 300 west at Sunk Island on 20th February with 200 west on 30th October and 87 on 6th November.

Large northwesterly movement through the Leeds area between 6th and 21st January with skeins of up to 175 involved though 250 over Rombalds Moor on 10th, 600 over Bardsey the same day; 415 over Roundhay and 200 over Adel Dam. Outwith this period, 180+ over Nidderdale on 20th February. Similar passage noted from V.C. 63 with skeins up to 200 reported from several locations and 500 over Barnsley on 10th; 300 at Bretton Park; 244 over Wath; 1000 west at Higham on 13th; 300 at Elsecar on 14th, 335 at Ingbirchworth on the same date with 288 over Thrybergh Res. Fewer and smaller numbers during February with 200 over Huddersfield on 12th and 150 over Bretton Park on 11th. First returning birds at Blacktoft being 100 on 11th September with 120 reported on several days of October; higher counts reported being 180 on 13th and 320 on 26th. Up to 100 noted at several locations during these last three months with 180 at Pugney's on 3rd December; 200 at Sprotbrough on 27th and 130 at Wath on 29th November. 375 at Slaithwaite on 28th October; 300 at Oxspring on 24th October and 200 on 15th November at Gunthwaite were all reported as 'grey geese'. 80 over Richmond on 27th March otherwise one to four at four locations in V.C. 65 during both winters.

**White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons***

60 northeast over Hawnby on 5th February (JP). 23 near Stone Creek on 17th were possibly birds remaining in that area from 1987. Hornsea Mere reported five on 7th January with 11 on 17th February and 17 from 18th to 20th. 11 north at Filey on 21st. 16 south at Bempton on 18th October with 39 at Flamborough on 27th and four there on 26th November no doubt being the four reported flying southeast at Kilnsea the same day. 31 southwest at Blacktoft on 16th December being the only record from V.C. 63 whilst in V.C. 64, single birds were in the Ribble Valley on 12th February and at Harewood Park on 27th December.

In V.C. 65; one at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st/2nd January with three from 10th to 12th; two on 20th then one from 24th January to 18th March. Three south at Thornton Steward on 10th January.

Birds considered to belong to the Greenland race *A.a.flavirostris* were reported from High Batts N.R. with two on 21st February; one at Bolton-on-Swale on 17th December; Masham G.P. from 5th to 12th November and Nosterfield on 13th November and again on 31st December.

*Addition to the 1986 Report:* single bird of this race at Barmston on 5th and 6th November.

**Grey Lag Goose *Anser anser***

Continues to increase and spread as a breeding bird in V.C. 61 now resident on most suitable areas of water. Maxima at the strongholds being 517 at Hornsea Mere on 8th June with 448 on 16th; 820 on 10th September; 745 on 19th September and 552 on 13th December. 351 at Tophill Low Res. on 25th September, 376 on 1st October and 420 on 15th. Bred at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough though no reports from the main area in V.C. 62 at Castle Howard.

In V.C. 63, bred at Potteric Carr with birds prospecting at Blacktoft; maxima reported from this V.C. being 80 at Blacktoft on 7th September; 62 at Thorpe Marsh on 1st

November; 45 at Old Bank End on 10th December increasing to 70 by the end of the year; 24 west at Pugney's on 24th December and 24 west at Golcar on 26th. Bred in V.C. 64 at Westwood; Staveley and Gouthwaite Res. with flocks in winter of 180 in the Crimble valley (Harrogate) flying west; up to 37 at Otley G.P. in January and 93 by 27th December; 36+ at Fairburn during November/December peaking at 48.

In V.C. 65 bred at Bolton-on-Swale and Scorton Quarry. Up to 118 at Nosterfield in January; 225 during July with 292 in August; 340 in September; 320 during October and 171 in December. Bolton-on-Swale reported maxima of 428 on 17th January; 445 on 18th March; 117 on 26th November and 383 on 28th December. 120 at Snape on 12th February; 125 on 3rd March and 114 on 2nd April. 202 at Stapleton Ponds on 17th September with 175 there on 15th November whilst 186 were at West Tanfield on 31st August and 80 on 13th November.

#### **Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens***

Two pairs reared four young in the Dallowgill area near Harrogate. Up to six birds being seen regularly around the Harrogate area particularly at Nosterfield and Knaresborough. Two in the Ribble valley during October.

*Addition to the 1987 Report:* A pair bred at Kettlestang on Dallow Moor.

#### **Canada Goose *Branta canadensis***

Little change in status in V.C. 61 with Hornsea Mere having the highest numbers where maxima were 169 on 10th June; 387 on 7th July; 496 on 17th July; 180 on 10th September and 290 on 19th September. Smaller counts at many other locations; 86 at Primrose Valley on 14th November being the next highest.

With no reports from Castle Howard very few counts were received from V.C. 62 and mostly concerned the Primrose Valley birds in the vicinity of Scarborough.

In V.C. 63, bred at six reservoirs west of Huddersfield and two west of Halifax, attempting to do so at a further six. Successful breeding occurred at 15 lowland locations. High counts reported in this V.C. being; 400 at Bretton Park on 1st November; 435 at Wintersett Res. on 23rd October; 515 at Pugney's on 27th August; 300 at Harthill Res. on 3rd October; 505 in the Rother Valley C.P. on 12th October.

Over 90 pairs bred in V.C. 64 including two at an altitude of 2200 feet on Great Whernside. High counts at the traditional locations were; 550 at Farnham in December; 685 at Fairburn Ings on 25th June; 780 at Eccup Res. on 1st September and 600 at Harewood Park on 2nd October.

No change in breeding status reported from V.C. 65 where maxima reported were 598 at Nosterfield in August; 350 at Masham G.P. on 27th July; 235 at Leyburn on 5th November.

A bird showing the characteristics of the race *B.c. minima* was reported at Masham G.P. on 15th October.

#### **Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis***

A pair reared two young at Bretton Park. The Flamingoland flock wintering at Hornsea Mere peaked at 121 during the early months of the year with the last on 30th May and returned late September with 119 on 1st October; 124 on 3rd with 121 at the end of the year. 132 north off Filey on 26th April otherwise one to six birds at several locations during both winters. 60+ southeast over Scarborough on 25th April with six at Castle Howard on 3rd April and one at Seamer G.P. on 18th May.

Five at Blacktoft on 22nd April with up to five in the early months at Wintersett Res. and Bretton Park and up to eight at these locations plus Pugney's during the latter months. These no doubt being part of the feral flock involved in breeding at Bretton. Single birds at Thorpe Marsh; Potteric Carr, Blaxton and Leeshaw during one or both winters.

V.C. 64 reported up to seven birds at 15 locations though mainly in the Harrogate and north Leeds areas. Birds were reported in all months.

12 at Bolton-on-Swale on 25th March with one from 10th to 16th May; two on 12th September; one on 9th October and four on 25th. One to four regularly at Leighton Res.;

Thornton Steward and Leyburn during January – March and November – December. 25 at Catterick Airfield on 15th December with single birds at Nosterfield on 13th November and Stapleton Ponds on 7th September.

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Daily at Spurn, on the Humber; with the exception of two January days; two in February and three in March; until 4th April then occasionally throughout the remainder of this month plus a single bird on 15th May and 7th June. Normally between 100 and 150 in January though lower counts on several days; between 25 and 150 in February with 20 to 75 in March. The first of the autumn were 14 flying south on 22nd September with the first on the Humber being of the pale bellied race *B.b.hrota* on 25th September. The first dark bellied birds noted on 1st October with numbers during this month varying between eight and 95 though 123 were counted on the 18th and c200 on 31st. 100 to 350 in the first week of November thereafter smaller numbers but c280 feeding north of Kilnsea in December were no doubt the Spurn flock.

200 flew west at Hornsea Mere on 6th November with coastal passage noted as follows; Flamborough 45 south on 16th October; 105 on 18th; 25 on 19th and 30 on 26th; Filey had 18 on 17th; 31 on 18th; 24 on 19th and 30 on 20th whilst off Hornsea 17 were recorded on 17th with 47 on 18th and 12 on 26th. Spurn had 406 south on 13 days this month with the peak of 182 on 17th. One to five reported from several other coastal locations with 28 along the Humber at Sunk Island on 30th October.

In V.C. 62; 16 reported over Staintondale on 10th March and along the coast one to five on several October dates with 27 south at Scarborough on 17th.

A single, wandering, bird noted in V.C. 63 from Edderthorpe on 14th February; Wombwell and Wath Ings from 13th to 16th and Thrybergh Res. from 16th to 18th. One at Blacktoft on 17th May and another on 17th October. One at Wath Ings on 19th October with three there on 26th and two at Broomhill Flash on 3rd December. Three immatures at Ardsley Res. from 6th to 13th November.

A single bird flying over Fairburn Ings on 8th October was the only record from V.C. 64 with only one record from V.C. 65; a single dark-bellied bird at Bolton-on-Swale from 16th to 19th May.

A good breeding season was indicated by the count of 41 first year birds in the flock of 123 at Spurn on 18th October.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Two at Scout Dyke Res. on 16th July; three flying south at Harthill Res. on 5th August were no doubt the birds also reported from the Rother Valley C.P. that same day. All published with the escape proviso.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

One south at Filey on 22nd May. One at Bretton Park on 16th April; Blacktoft on 20th and 24th and again on 4th June and reputedly also there on at least one day in May. One at Nosterfield on 17th May and at Staveley on 29th and 30th September. All published with the escape proviso.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

No comments concerning breeding along the Humber received; elsewhere in V.C. 61 bred at Tophill Low Res.; Easington and Catwick. No breeding records received from V.C. 62; in V.C. 63 bred at Blaxton (also in 1987); Candy Farm (also 1987); Holmewood G.P. and Blacktoft Sands. In V.C. 64 at Mickletown Ings and the Settle area whilst in V.C. 65 bred at Nosterfield where due to falling water levels only one young fledged out of 46; Masham, with 16 young out of 23 and at Pallett Hill Quarry (Catterick).

Numbers on the Humber at Sunk Island fell from 394 on 9th January to 83 by mid March thence 60 on 30th April; 83 on 14th May; 152 on 25th June; 863 on 31st July; 909 on 6th August; 1130 on 19th with 1061 on 28th falling rapidly to 120 on 11th September with 100 to 200 throughout the remainder of the year. 235 at Cherry Cobb on 5th May and 310 at

Brough on 15th May. Easterly passage noted at Spurn on many days in July with maximum of 230 on 24th then southerly passage in October with 169 on 26th. Smaller numbers reported along the coast with 72 on the sea at Fraisthorpe on 14th February on which date 78 passed Hornsea.

107 north off Staithes, the only record of any number in V.C. 62. In V.C. 63, Blacktoft reported up to 72 during January/February but 127 on 21st February with 150 on 23rd March. Westerly passage here noted with 33 on 6th May; 408 between 4th and 9th September with 128 on 5th and 152 on 2nd October. Recorded during every month in this V.C. away from the Trent/Ouse with usually one to five birds but 29 at Blaxton on 7th May; 28 east at Wintersett Res. on 5th July and 38 west there on 7th September; 14 in the Rother Valley C.P. on 2nd October.

Also noted in every month in V.C. 64 again with one to five birds involved but at Fairburn Ings 26 on 22nd July; 29 on 6th September and 14 on 29th October.

13 at Bolton-on-Swale being the only flock in V.C. 65 away from the breeding locations.

#### **Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Single birds, all males reported from Tophill Low Res. on 12th and 13th November; Peasholm Park, Scarborough on 22nd April; Scalby Mills on 23rd August; Collingham on 25th and 26th March and at Wentworth from 1st January to 30th May and again from 19th September to end of year. All published with the escape proviso.

#### **Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

No reports of breeding received. Maximum counts at Hornsea Mere were 780 on 17th January with 338 on 18th December whilst at Tophill Low Res. monthly maxima in both winters were; January 839; February 570; March 490; October 450; November 300 and December 469. Kilnsea/Easington Lagoons held 117 on 29th September; 150 on 26th November and 155 on 10th December. Passage along the coast reported from Flamborough with small counts during the early months but 298 on 14th September and 124 on 15th; 105 on 25th October. Filey had 347 on 14th September and 341 on 25th October whilst 147 passed Hornsea on 14th September but few at Spurn. 165 north at Hornsea on 12th October and 182 at Spurn on 25th. Westerly passage at Sunk Island during this period with 180 on 17th September; 238 on 25th; 227 on 1st October and 416 the following day thereafter smaller numbers to the end of the year. 119 north at Scarborough on 14th September with 111 north at Staithes on 2nd October.

At Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, 250 flew west on 21st October. Up to 160 reported from this location in the early months and up to 200 at the end of the year. Other locations to have large numbers were Wintersett Res. with 126 on 27th February and 108 on 20th March; 203 there on 21st November with 309 (the highest count ever here) on 24th then up to 233 during December. Wath Ings also reported a record total of 112 on 27th December. Edderthorpe with 116 on 13th November and Pugney's with 135 west on 12th October were the only other locations in this V.C. to record over 100 birds.

In V.C. 64, by far the largest gathering was in the Ribble valley with c400 in February and c150 in late October. Fairburn Ings and Swillington Ings were the only other locations to record over 100 with 152 at the former on 6th November and 127 at the latter on 29th October.

In V.C. 65, maxima at Bolton-on-Swale were 875 on 10th January with 873 on 31st; 700 on 3rd March and the last two, on 2nd May; 110 by 16th September increasing to 950 on 27th November with 635 on 29th thence 1080 on 18th December. 225 at Snape on 13th February; 215 at Leyburn on 18th December; 222 at Thornton Steward on 26th January with 225 there on 22nd December.

#### **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Bred in V.C. 61 at Tophill Low Res.; Scampston Lake and possibly Lambwath. In V.C. 63 at Wath Ings (first ever); Potteric Carr with attempted breeding at Blacktoft and pairs present during the breeding season at Holmewood and Old Denaby. In V.C. 64 bred at Fairburn and Mickletown Ings.

Highest counts in V.C. 61 being 190 at Tophill Low Res. on 21st September and at Hornsea Mere, 128 on 17th January with 77 on 19th September. 40 at Scampston Lake on 16th October. Generally small numbers in V.C. 63 but 18 at Potteric Carr during February and 55 there on 9th September. Blacktoft held 56 on 30th October; 65 on 5th November decreasing to 14 by the end of the month thence 28 during late December. Fairburn Ings, the stronghold in V.C. 64 had 40 in late February with 42 on 13th March; 62 on 27th August and 103 on 11th September thence up to 60 to the end of the year. Maxima at Swillington was 50 on 20th October and 64 on 11th December. Scarce in V.C. 65 with one to two at Bolton-on-Swale during January and February and one to five in the last two months of the year.

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

Breeding reported from Tophill Low Res. and Hornsea Mere in V.C. 61, at 12 locations in V.C. 63 (29 pairs), eight of which were at Potteric Carr; 18 pairs located on the high ground of V.C. 64 were considered to have had a poor year. Bred at Roundhill in V.C. 65.

Small numbers again at Hornsea Mere with maxima of 228 on 21st February and 320 on 18th December. Monthly peaks at Tophill Low Res. being 400 in January; 444 in February; 240 in November and 430 during December. Coastal passage noted from Flamborough with peak of 116 on 27th August; Hornsea with 532 south on 2nd September, 146 north on 12th October and 230 north on 20th November. Spurn reported 159 on 27th August; 800 on 2nd September with 112 on 2nd and 118 on 4th October; 205 on 9th November. Westerly passage along the Humber at Sunk Island with 704 on 27th August; 264 on 28th; 339 on 1st October and 205 on 2nd with 410 on 20th November. Small numbers in V.C. 62 with 99 off Staithes on 2nd October as the highest count.

High counts in V.C. 63 being 600 at Potteric Carr during February with 450 at Thorpe Marsh during January; 310 at Blacktoft on 3rd January; 280 there on 14th February with Wath Ings reporting 234 on 1st January. During the latter months 800 at Blacktoft in late September with 1100 on 20th October thence 350 in November. 300 at Wath Ings in late October peaking at 339 on 27th November. 300 at Potteric Carr in September and 350 at Thorpe Marsh in December.

Well distributed in V.C. 64 on all waters with 230 in January and 385 in September at Gouthwaite Res; at Fairburn Ings, up to 200 in January and 420 on 17th November; 205 at Swillington Ings on 24th November with 432 there on 29th December. In V.C. 65, Bolton-on-Swale held 135 on 9th January with 500 on 4th December; 150 at Masham on 3rd December; 188 at Leyburn on 10th increasing to 260 by 24th.

#### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Counts of over 1000 were reported from only Sunk Island and Tophill Low Res. in V.C. 61 with the former having 1525 on 24th December and the latter reporting monthly peaks of 1255 in January; 1700 in September; 2125 during October; 2400 in November and 1600 in December. The only location holding such numbers in V.C. 63 being Blacktoft with 1000 in August and 1400 on 14th September; Fairburn Ings in V.C. 64 had 1200 on 16th January whilst in V.C. 65, Roundhill/Leighton Res. had 1300 in January and 1250 during November with 1525 in December. Bolton-on-Swale recorded 1075 on 9th January; 1250 on 9th September and 1565 on 28th December. Many locations reported 250 to 1000 in all V.C.s.

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

With the exception of 12 at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd September all records of more than ten in V.C. 61 were from either the coast or the estuary with 14 on 15th September and 19 on 22nd at Flamborough; up to 11 at Filey during the same period; 13 at Hornsea on 12th October; 13 at Spurn on 13th March with 12 on 16th and 13 on 20th; 12 on 3rd and 16 on 8th April. Over the sea there, 19 on 30th March with 70 south on 23rd September and 13 on 1st October. Sunk Island reported westerly passage on several days in autumn with 26 on 27th August; 24 on 17th September; 24 on 1st October with 62 the following day and 22 on 30th. 282 flew west at Blacktoft between 23rd August and 13th September

with 52 on 31st August as peak and high counts also of 37 west on 4th November; 23 west on 19th thence 36 west on 7th December. 11 at Wath Ings on 29th August with eight at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 1st October.

In V.C. 64, very few excepting at Fairburn Ings where 40 flew west on 1st September; 20 west on 6th September and 36 west on 2nd October. Regularly reported at Bolton-on-Swale from 31st August to the end of the year with 11 on 3rd October and 20 on 5th December after which eight were present on 10th and nine on 18th.

#### **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

One pair bred near Sheffield rearing two young.

Four at Flamborough on 2nd June with two at Filey Dams from 3rd to 14th April; two on Filey Brigg on 10th May whilst in autumn three were at the Dams on 4th August with five there on 4th and four until 12th. Two at Kilnsea (Beacon Lane Ponds) from 1st to 3rd June with two at Pulfyn Bog on 23rd April. Single birds at Hornsea Mere; Tophill Low Res. and over the sea at Hornsea, on one or more days. Two pairs at Blacktoft on 6th April; one pair at Denaby Ings from 7th May until 18th; a pair flew east at Thorpe Marsh on 21st April with another pair there on 30th May; pair at Wombwell on 4th May with six at Wath on 22nd July thence one to four during August but five on 21st; pair at Elsecar Res. on 24th May. Pair at Leventhorpe Hall, Leeds from 17th April to 30th May with a second pair there from 1st to 10th May, leaving as the pond dried out. Two males at Fairburn on 26th August with the same birds present on 3rd; 11th and 12th September. The only other location reporting birds in V.C. 64 was Staveley. In V.C. 65; two at Bolton-on-Swale from 24th to 28th May with one there on 9th August and at Nosterfield on 19th/20th April.

#### **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

Single males at Bolton-on-Swale from 29th September to 5th October (DBe) and at Thorpe Marsh on 16th November (PS). Both are still under consideration by the *British Birds* Records Committee

#### **Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

Confirmed breeding at Keyingham G.P.; Tophill Low Res.; Potteric Carr; Wath Ings; Denaby Ings; Blacktoft; Edderthorpe Flash and Stapleton Ponds. A very poor year at Hornsea Mere with maximum count of 46 on 19th September. Monthly maxima at Tophill Low Res. during the latter months of 65 during September; 125 in October; 90 in November and 120 in December. Highest count during the early months in V.C. 63 being 35 at Potteric Carr whilst towards the end of the year 36 at Pugney's on 25th September; 76 at Wath Ings on 21st August and 43 on 26th September; 50 at Blacktoft on 9th August with 52 on 28th October and 30 at Potteric Carr in October. The stronghold for this species in V.C. 64, Fairburn Ings, reported fewer than usual with peak counts of 40 in January; 74 on 27th August; 81 on 11th September; 132 on 20th October thence 40 during November. Nearby Swillington Ings recorded 52 on 31st August with 91 on 15th and 100 on 20th October falling to 50 in November. 38 at Staveley was the only other large count. In V.C. 65, Bolton-on-Swale reported 27 during September as the peak.

Little coastal passage with 27 south off Hornsea on 27th August as by far the highest number reported.

#### **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

A female on Pontefract Park lake on 17th July (JW & JMC). The female at Thornton Steward remained from 1987 until 27th February with single females reported at Bolton-on-Swale from 6th to 17th February; from 30th May until 3rd June and 25th October to 18th December. Single female at Thornton Steward on 31st December.

A red-crested Pochard x Pochard hybrid (male) was present at Fairburn Ings from 14th March until mid July being seen at Mickletown Ings on 26th April.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Breeding occurred at Burton Constable (two pairs); Tophill Low Res. (three); Potteric Carr (two); Thorpe Marsh (one); Blacktoft (five); Catcliffe Flash (one); Mickletown Ings (two) and Fairburn Ings (five).

Low numbers at the main locations in the east with 420 at Hornsea Mere on 17th January; 365 on 19th September; 370 on 15th October falling to 110 on 5th December. 197 at Tophill Low Res. in February with 178 in October; 120 in November and 110 during December. 43 at Settrington on 13th November.

In V.C. 62 up to 40 at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough during both winters.

In V.C. 63 Potteric Carr held 110 on 7th February with 134 at Thrybergh Res. on 29th February remaining until 3rd March; 149 at Catcliffe Flash in February. During the latter months; 230 at Wintersett Res. on 23rd October with 133 on 2nd November; 96 at Thrybergh Res. on 18th December; up to 81 at Catcliffe Flash in October with 120 in the Rother Valley C.P. during this same month; 140 there in November and 147 in December. Fairburn Ings in V.C. 64 held 316 on 16th January; 337 on 25th February; 378 on 8th March; 220 on 18th June with 215 on 19th November. 204 at Lowther Lake on 10th March with 205 at Mickletown Ings on 2nd. Other waters in V.C. 64 to hold more than 100 were Swillington Ings with 106 on 5th November increasing to 200+ by 25th November and 317 on 29th December. Farnham recorded c100 during December. The only locations in V.C. 65 to hold any numbers were Nosterfield with 229 during February and Bolton-on-Swale with 194 on 28th January; 272 on 3rd October and 246 on 17th December.

Coastal passage light excepting 84 south at Hornsea on 26th October and Spurn where 112 flew south on this same day with 41 south on 8th November and 49 on 9th. Westerly passage along the Humber/Ouse reported from Blacktoft with 375 recorded between 2nd and 29th October with 75 on 26th.

*Addition* to the 1987 Report: 245 at Southfield Res. on 7th February and 248 there on 28th October.

**Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*

A male at Fairburn Ings from 17th April to 23rd May (CCT, MC, RH *et al*) was joined by a second male from 27th April to 1st May (RH). Male at Tophill Low Res. from 30th May to 7th June though not recorded every day (KJA, AB, IF, SA *et al*)

A wandering male visited Catcliffe Flash; Rother Valley C.P. and Harthill Res. on many days from 28th August 1987 until the end of September 1988 (MF, DH, A & JW, RG *et al*).

*Correction* to 1987 Report: Delete 'at Fairburn Ings from 17th to 19th April (CCT, JGr).

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*

Single males were reported from East Park, Hull between 2nd and 9th April (BR *et al*); Swillington Ings from 5th to 8th November (AJR *et al*); Mickletown Ings on 13th December (BT) and Pugney's on 15th December (GC).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

c16 pairs bred at seven locations in V.C. 61 with average success; no reported breeding in V.C. 62; c69 pairs in V.C. 63 at 24 locations with at least 200 young being raised; V.C. 64 reported a disastrous season with 40 females at Fairburn though only 14 attempted to breed having six broods and rearing a total of five young. Elsewhere in this V. C. seven broods totalling 34 young were reported. V.C. 65 had 19 broods with 117 young at five locations.

Numbers low at Hornsea Mere with maxima of 369 on 17th January and 310 on 15th October. Winter monthly maxima at Tophill Low Res. were 513 in January; 587 in February with 260 in March then 300 during September; 700 in October; 511 in November and 570 in December. Exceptional counts during late summer with 640 on 18th July; 1060 on 31st (this being the highest count ever reported in Yorkshire); 1000 on 3rd August and 640 on 28th.

Peak counts in V.C. 63 were up to 310 at Wintersett Res. during January with 344 there on 27th November and up to 327 in December; up to 170 at Throrpe Marsh in November and 199 at Pugney's on 30th October; 168 at Thrybergh Res. during December.

Maxima in V.C. 64 being 207 at Mickletown Ings on 2nd March; 267 at Swillington Ings on 29th December with Fairburn holding 490 on 16th January; 380 on 27th February; 463 on 13th March; 400 on 8th April and 350 on 13th November. Peak counts at Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, were 150 on 17th January; 195 on 15th August and 144 on 27th November.

#### **Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Another poor year along the coast with 24 at Spurn on 25th October; 30 the following day and 13 on 5th November. Ten north at Scarborough on 18th November; ten at Flamborough on 12th October and eight at Hornsea the same day were the maxima at these locations. 42 on the Humber at Sunk Island on 30th October. Freshwater records were four at Hornsea Mere on 17th January with six there on 17th July; five at Tophill Low Res. on 20th November. 13 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 27th October; four at Pugney's from 3rd to 17th December with up to three there from 1st November to the end of the year. Four at Wintersett Res. on 5th November with three at Redmires Res. on 27th October. Three at Thrybergh Res. on ten days during February with one to two birds at a further nine locations covering all months of the year. One to four birds reported in V.C. 64 at five locations during the early months with one to three at nine locations from 29th August to the end of the year – considered a poor year in this V.C. In V.C. 65 only reported from Bolton-on-Swale with three from 6th to 9th July; two from 10th to 15th; two on 3rd and 4th August with one on 16th to 18th July; 5th August; 12th September; 5th November and 26th November to 4th December.

#### **Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Few reported from the coast with most being observed during mid November when northerly passage was recorded at several locations. 28 at Spurn on 18th; 34 at Flamborough on this date with 28 on 19th and 22 on 22nd; 100+ passed Filey during the period 18th to 22nd with 24 off Knipe Point (V.C. 62) and 105 off Hornsea on 23rd. Spurn Point also reported 15 on 6th September and 20 on 31st October.

Five west at Sunk Island on 20th February with seven west there on 11th December. Further upstream, one at Blacktoft on 7th November whilst 17 flew up the River Trent there on 23rd returning to the Humber later that day. A male was at Worsbrough Res. on 24th and 25th November being found dead nearby some weeks later.

23 at Eccup Res. on 11th May – the highest number ever reported inland in Yorkshire. An adult male at Fairburn Ings on 19th October.

#### **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

One to three infrequently along the coast during the early months. In July, a pair in full summer plumage at Hornsea Mere on 2nd; female south there on 5th; one north off Scarborough on 15th and one at Flamborough on 16th. Eight at Filey on 30th October with an influx in mid month. 30+ passed Filey on the 19th with 23 on 20th and 15 on 21st; Flamborough recorded 27 on 19th with 33 on 20th and 12 on 21st whilst at Hornsea nine flew north on 18th with five on 19th and 26 on 20th and seven on 21st. Few reported from Spurn during this period though Scarborough had four north on 20th; five on 21st and 15 south on both 26th and 27th. This passage was also noted on the Humber with two west at Sunk Island on 12th; six west on 19th and two on 20th. Hornsea Mere reported three on 5th November with five on the 6th and three from 10th to 17th. Further inland an influx was noted into V.C. 64 with one to two birds at 11 locations particularly Eccup Res. reporting three birds regularly, occasionally five, from mid month; it is considered that at least seven individuals visited this site. Single birds reported from V.C. 63 at Pugney's on 22nd November; Ingbirchworth Res. from 23rd November to 7th December; Thrybergh Res. from 1st December to end of year; Ogden's Pool, Bradford on 15th December and Angler's Lake, Wintersett from 15th to 17th December.

### Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Up to 300 off Aldbrough during January with 150 in February and 200 in March; 210 off Tunstall on 3rd March were obviously these birds. 350 at Fraisthorpe on 14th February. 99 at Flamborough on 13th July with up to 80 at Spurn this month and 215 at Filey. August saw 160 at Spurn on 8th when 92 passed Scarborough; 193 at Flamborough on 9th. 119 at Flamborough on 15th September; 264 at Spurn and 156 at Flamborough on 30th October whilst in November, 500 at Speeton on 13th; 161 at Hornsea and 140 at Spurn on 18th; 219 at Flamborough, 125 at Hornsea on 19th and on 20th 254 at Staithes, 161 at Hornsea and 145 at Flamborough. Monthly maxima for October and November at Filey being 161 and 152 respectively. Westerly passage along the estuary reported from Sunk Island with 212 on 30th October (of which 54 later returned eastwards); 15 on 19th November and 39 on 20th. At Blacktoft, 50 west on 7th August with 18 on 8th and 90 on 9th.

Freshwater records were numerous with 12 at Hornsea Mere on 12th September; one to three at nine locations in V.C. 63 but five at Wintersett Res. on 21st June; seven at Pugney's on 26th May; 11 males at Redmires Res. on 29th June and 34 males there on 8th August. In V.C. 64, reported from eight waters with five at Fairburn Ings on 20th April and 12 at Chelker Res. on 9th November. Three at Bolton-on-Swale on 22nd June, the only report from V.C. 65.

### Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

One to two occasionally along the coast in the early months with three at Flamborough on 20th March and four at Tunstall on 3rd. Two at Flamborough on 25th June; six at Filey on 16th July when five were also reported from Flamborough. Four at Spurn on 16th October; five at Flamborough on 29th with five at Spurn on 31st. More numerous in mid November with eight at Hornsea on 18th and seven on 20th; six at Flamborough on 20th; seven off Scarborough on 18th and nine at Staithes on 20th. Few after this passage excepting three at Flamborough on 3rd December and three at Filey on 17th.

Two west along the Humber on 24th December whilst inland single birds were reported at Wintersett Res. from 19th to 26th November and at Ardsley Res. on 1st December.

*Addition to the 1987 Report:* one at Southfield Res. from 6th to 14th December.

### Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

Single male south off Hornsea on 1st September (WFC).

### Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Lower counts than usual at Hornsea Mere with no spring peak; maxima there being 128 on 21st February and 138 on 13th March; very few during the latter months, 32 on 1st November as highest count. Tophill Low Res. had monthly maxima of 36 in February; 86 in March with 48 during October; 78 in November and 85 during December. Six birds summered at this location.

In V.C. 63 birds reported during the early months from some 20 locations, usually one to four birds but Pugney's having 18 on 16th January with up to 15 on several other days that month and 11 on 6th February. Nearby Wintersett Res. had up to 55 during January with 73 on 31st thence 90 on 14th February increasing to 94 on 6th March (a record count for the area) decreasing to 55 by 22nd March then 33 to 41 through the first weeks of April. A similar situation during the latter months of the year in this V.C. with numbers at Pugney's increasing to 24 by 26th November and 28 by the end of the year; Wintersett Res. having 22 on 30th October; 45 on 27th November and 72 on 27th December. 15 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th October.

Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, had 60 on 20th February; 63 on 28th March and 56 on 8th April as monthly maxima in the early months. Other locations in this V.C. holding good numbers being Eccup Res. with 47 on 28th February, 32 on 26th March; Knotford Nook with 30 on 5th February and Gouthwaite Res. with 30 during January. The last were five at Fairburn Ings on 27th May. First returning bird was in the Ribble valley on 7th August with maxima in this V.C. towards the end of the year of 30 at Fairburn Ings on 19th November decreasing to 23 in December; 21 at Gouthwaite in December; 26 at Eccup

Res. on 6th November with 37 there on 31st December and 35 at Swillington Ings on 21st November.

In V.C. 65 the only numbers reported were from Bolton-on-Swale with 44 on 30th January increasing to 49 on 27th February; 54 on 12th March thence 52 on 7th April with only three on 10th. A single bird was present there from 16th to 18th June. 33 had returned by 19th November with a similar count on 31st December.

Coastal passage light with 36 off Filey on 26th October; 33 at Hornsea the same day and 57 north at the latter location on 19th November.

#### **Smew *Mergus albellus***

A return to more usual numbers. In V.C. 61 single birds at Tophill Low Res. on 31st January; Hornsea Mere on 7th February; Kilnsea Ponds from 6th to 9th April. During the latter months; one north at Hornsea on 18th November; one on the River Hull near Tophill Low Res. on 23rd November no doubt being the bird seen on the reservoir the following day; one at Flamborough on 2nd December and finally one again at Tophill Low Res. on 14th December.

V.C. 63 reported single birds at Blacktoft from 1st January to 21st March; Thorpe Marsh from 13th to 14th January; Bretton Park and Wintersett Res. on 24th November; Rother Valley C.P. on 5th December; Wintersett Res. on 18th December moving to nearby Walton Hall; Blacktoft from 10th December until 31st.

One remained from 1987 until 27th March at Fairburn Ings; one to three birds present at Knotford Nook until 15th March with single birds at Harewood on 10th January and Eccup Res. on 23rd January considered to be one of these individuals. One returned to Knotford Nook on 27th November with two by 22nd December and four on 23rd thereafter one to three birds present. One at Hay-a-Park on 11th and 29th December; one in the Aire valley visiting Mickletown Ings on 13th December thereafter frequenting Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings to the end of the year. All birds reported were immature/females with the exception of a male at Knotford Nook.

*Addition* to the 1987 Report: three at Southfield Res/River Went from 5th to 10th January and again from 4th to 7th and 9th February. Three at Catwick on 14th March.

#### **Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator***

A single pair bred at Redmires Res. having nine young on 15th June though none survived. A pair were present at Chelker Res. but did not breed.

One to four frequently reported along the coast though up to 11 at Filey in October and 16 south at Hornsea on 12th October. One to three at Sunk Island particularly in March and October. Seven at Ardsley Res. on 19th October with four flying west at Blacktoft on 2nd October otherwise in V.C. 63 one to three at this last location; Blackmoorfoot Res.; Wintersett Res. and Elland G.P.. One to two birds at six locations in V.C. 64 during the early months of the year; four at Eccup Res. on 12th July then none until mid October when one was present at Fairburn Ings; single birds thereafter at three locations until the end of the year.

Two at Bolton-on-Swale from 23rd to 26th April; a rare bird in this V.C.

#### **Goosander *Mergus merganser***

No survey was carried out this year in V.C. 65 but it is considered that the breeding status remains unchanged. Three broods on the River Ribble; one at Grimwith Res; two in the upper reaches of the Wharfe but none between Strid Woods and Ilkley where up to ten broods have been located in past years; human disturbance being considered the cause of this decline. Two broods on the Aire near Skipton with one on the River Laver. Bred in V.C. 62 on the River Rye at Hawny and probably bred at Duncombe Park.

Nowadays a scarce bird in V.C. 61 with 16 south at Filey on 29th October as by far the highest count; eight off the sea at Spurn on 19th November with seven off Filey on 30th November and six at that location on 29th October and six north off Hornsea on 26th October. A male at Tophill Low Res. on 19th November was shot across the river at Baswick later that same day.

In V.C. 63 higher than usual counts at Blacktoft; Wintersett Res.; Bretton Park and Wath Ings during the early months. Blacktoft held up to 24 during this period whilst Wath Ings had 15 on 19th February increasing to 19 on 25th thence 22 on 29th; ten at Bretton Park during February with Wintersett Res. having 12 on 1st January; 18 by 31st thence 24 on 14th February and 28 on 7th March (a record for this water); these 28 birds being reported from Wath Ings the following day. Recorded during the latter months from 16 locations with usually one to three birds being involved though ten west at Blacktoft on 20th November; up to nine at Bretton Park on several days in November; a similar number at Wintersett Res. during late November and early December with 12 on 28th December.

V.C. 64 reported low numbers during the early months with 69 at Eccup Res. on 29th January; 87 on 27th February and 58 on 1st March; 56 at Hay-a-Park in January with 42 at Lindley Wood Res. on 19th January. No other location recording more than 30 birds. Good numbers during the latter months with 60 at Keswick Fitts on 19th September; 84 at High Batts N.R. in November; 59 at Eccup Res. on 27th November with over 100 on five days in December with peak of 147 on 31st.

Leighton Res. in V.C. 65 held 144 on 5th November and 135 during December.

*Addition to the 1987 Report:* 20 at Southfield Res. on 18th February.

#### **Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis***

Breeding occurred at Denaby Ings; Worsbrough Res.; Wentworth; Potteric Carr; Old Denaby and Catcliffe Flash in V.C. 63; Harewood Park; Mickletown Ings; Swillington Ings and Fairburn Ings in V.C. 64. No positive breeding in the other V.C.s though birds were present at several locations during all months. Six to seven birds regularly at many sites with 18 at Worsbrough Res. on 5th July; 17 at Mickletown Ings during autumn; 18 at Harewood Park on 7th July and 19 there on 18th September. Up to six at Hornsea Mere in latter months with six to nine at Tophill Low Res. during late December.

#### **Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus***

Single bird southeast over Spurn on 2nd June; Single birds at Midhope/Ewden on 19th June – a very dark bird (JMT, GJS), and an intermediate bird at Langsett on 30th July (DJS, GD). Single birds reported at one location in the county between 2nd June and early August.

#### **Red Kite *Milvus milvus***

One at Filey on 16th April (JH), the first record for this location. One at Spurn Point on 30th May left to the northwest being seen over Easington later that day. Singles at Broomhill Flash moving northwards to Edderthorpe Flash on 2nd April (SE, KAD *et al*); at Scout Dyke/Ingbirchworth Res. on 3rd April (BP) and over Huddersfield on 8th June (GK, MS). In V.C. 64, singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 17th January and 3rd April (JEA, PJC); over Thorpe-on-the-Hill, Leeds and Fairburn Ings on 3rd April (JH, JG) and the Stean valley on 23rd May (MGHG). The same bird may have been involved at several of these locations.

*Addition to the 1987 Report:* One at Hardcastle Crags on 25th February (DS).

#### **Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

A good year in V.C. 61 with the first at Tophill Low Res. on 8th and 9th April thereafter single birds reported from Spurn; Bempton; Hornsea Mere; Grimston and Kilnsea during this month. Many records in May with two at Easington Lagoons though possibly four on 10th on which day four were recorded at Spurn where three flew south on 2nd; two south on 4th with two on 11th. Single birds were reported from a further 13 locations in this V.C. during the course of this month. One at Ravenscar on 6th May the only spring record from V.C. 62 whilst V.C. 63 the usual spring passage occurred at Blacktoft with higher than usual numbers. A female on 18th and 19th March being the first with ten in April between 13th and 27th including three on 21st and an adult male displaying and nest building between 22nd and 25th. 12 in May with two on four days. A female summered from 4th June until early September. It is considered that 24 individuals were recorded during

spring. Elsewhere in this V.C. single birds were reported from Pugney's on 4th and 21st April; Wath Ings on 15th May and Potteric Carr on 27th May. One over Bingley Moor on 4th May, the only spring record from V.C. 64.

In autumn single birds reported from eight locations in V.C. 61, the last being on 15th September at Tophill Low Res. 19 individuals reported from Blacktoft in autumn with ten during August including three on the 3rd; 6th and 30th; eight in September with four on 1st and the last on 25th. Single birds at Sutton Common on 6th September; Deanhead (near Huddersfield) on 18th June and Brierley Common on 3rd September. One at Gouthwaite Res. on 6th August with one over Scarborough on 19th.

#### **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

The Blacktoft Sands roost held up to six birds during January and February with six still present on 1st March thence decreasing to four by the end of the month; three in early April with the last on 18th though a late female on 7th May. Female on 29th July with one on 16th September remaining and being joined by another on 3rd October; first male on 27th October thence up to four birds from 6th November to end of year. Two *ringtails* roosted on moorland in the south west from January to March with two males and two *ringtails* in early April. Two birds here on 22nd October with two *ringtails* during November/December. The Cowden Range roost appears to be a thing of the past with not a single bird being reported during the year. Two *ringtails* roosted in the Redmires Res. area during the early months with a male present from 9th to 15th April; single *ringtail* there from 8th October with a second from 10th November. Five roosting at Welwick on 4th January with three on 18th February.

Away from these known roosts single birds were reported from many locations during the winter months with two occasionally on the high ground of V.C. 64 and three at Arden Moor, Hawnby on 8th October; three near Gouthwaite Res. from September to end of year and three during the same period in the Timble Ings/Denton Moor area.

#### **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*

Single females were reported from Blacktoft on 18th and 27th May. Single *ringtails* were observed flying south over Kilnsea/Spurn on 31st May and 2nd June. An immature male there on 13th June with a *ringtail* on 13th August when an immature male was reported from Thorngumbald (GJS *et al*). *Ringtail* at Sunk Island on 21st August with a male there on 27th (JW, PM).

#### **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Breeding numbers slowly increasing though with mixed success. Of eight known pairs in one region two deserted; one had nest destroyed; four had eggs stolen and one reared young. In another area three pairs reared nine young whilst at various locations in the county others had eggs stolen or nests destroyed.

Single wandering birds reported from several locations on the low ground to the east of the Pennines and along the coast at Flamborough; Atwick and Hornsea Mere (first record there). A female in the Bransdale area of V.C. 62 was reported on several occasions in spring and seen to be wearing jesses.

#### **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Indications received from all areas are that this species continues to increase and spread. 55 pairs in the Barnsley area of which 38 reared 141 young (71 female, 70 male). Up to five birds reported from several locations with six at Spurn on 22nd October; six at Flamborough on 10th September; six on 16th October, seven on 18th and 19th with six on 26th November. Eight south at Fairburn Ings on 2nd October and eight over Knaresborough on 28th. Two on Gas Platform 47/3B (off Withernsea) on 1st and 6th November. Five west at Sunk Island on 3rd September with seven east there on 22nd October. A female at Tinsley on 29th December had fresh kills which included Dotterel feathers.

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Breeding suspected at one location.

In V.C. 61, two flew north at Flamborough on 27th March; one near Wansford on 25th May and one at Flixton on 21st October. V.C. 63 recorded single birds at Brocadale on 23rd April; Denby Dale in 'mid May'; Rockley on 25th September and Stainbrough on 1st October. Single birds over Wath on 9th September and Carlton on 5th October were thought to be escapes though the reasons not quite clear.

One to two birds on the high ground near Gouthwaite/Leighton Res in V.C.s 64/65 until 9th March and again from 4th August. Two on Barden Moor in January with four on 9th March. Away from the high ground single birds were reported from Harrogate on 24th April; Staveley on 7th and 11th September; Fairburn Ings on 24th October and Kirkstall (Leeds) on 26th October.

In V.C. 65, in addition to the Leighton Res. birds above; two at Reeth on 23rd March; one at Masham on 3rd February; one at Locker Tarn on 5th November with one to two at West Applegarth near Richmond from January to April.

Unidentified 'buzzards' at Maltby on 16th February and Thorpe Marsh on 4th March.

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

One at Spurn on 17th November with one south over Hornsea Mere on 4th December (TDC) and one at Garton Bottoms from 12th December until end of the year (B. Hepplewhite per BS & SP). An immature found dead at Scarborough on 13th September (KW, MFr) with one at Lastingham on 11th October (RHA). One at Gouthwaite on several days in November and on 3rd December (many obs.).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Widespread in both spring and autumn with single birds at Filey on 2nd April; Thrybergh Res. on 8th; Pugney's and Beaverdyke Res. on 16th; Thrybergh on 19th; Wintersett Res. on 20th and Gouthwaite Res. on 23rd. In May single birds at Filey; Scarbrough and Langsett on 2nd; Arden Hall Lake (Hawnby) on 6th; Wintersett Res. on 9th; Blacktoft on 11th; Spurn on 13th; Blacktoft 15th; Hornsea 18th; Pugney's and Wintersett on 19th (possibly two birds at the latter); Wintersett again on 20th and 31st. In June at Rougemont from 1st to 11th; at Staveley on 3rd; Swillington Ings on 4th; Great Langton on 12th and Fewston on 17th.

One at Egton on 9th July and Easington on 31st. In August at Spurn on 12th; Wintersett Res. on 21st; Wintersett Res; Bretton Park and Wath on 28th with two over Scarborough on 29th. One during the month at Lindholme Lake though no date(s) given. One south at Hornsea and Spurn on 2nd September; one reported from five locations in the Harrogate area between 5th and 15th; single to south of Driffield on 15th and 16th; High Batts N.R. on 11th; 18th and 24th; Ardsley Res. on 18th and Cowden on 29th. In October two at Romanby on 8th and the last at Spurn on 20th.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Widespread; no change in breeding status indicated. 11 at Spurn on both 30th July and 17th August with southerly passage noted in September with 33 on 29th. Passage also reported from Flamborough with ten on 26th March; 16 on 6th August, 24 on 17th; 14 on 18th; 22 on 19th and 16 on 24th. In September; 14 on 3rd and 12 on 8th. 12 on 5th and 12th October. 11 flew east at Sunk Island on 3rd September with 13 east there on 25th. 19 in the Wath area on 2nd July is a record count for the location.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

Single male at Egton on 30th May was accepted by the YNU but still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (WN).

### Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Reasonably successful breeding season in the Sheffield area with small numbers breeding elsewhere in V.C. 63. Reports from V.C.s 64 and 65 indicate very good breeding numbers in both these areas. One to two birds at many lowland locations during both winters, particularly along the coast and estuary with three occasionally reported from Blacktoft.

### Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

In V.C. 61 single birds at Spurn on 8th May (though possibly two); 23rd and 25th; 1st July (possibly two); 15th August and 1st October. At Flamborough on 25th May; 13th August; 1st; 15th and 16th September; 2nd; 3rd and 16th October. Filey on 4th and 7th July; 5th; 7th and 9th August. Wheldrake Ings had one on 31st August and 1st September with two on 2nd and 3rd; one on 4th/5th; two on 6th and 8th with one again on 24th. Single birds reported from Tophill Low Res. on 9th May and 16th September; Hornsea Mere on 24th May; Kilnsea on 8th May and 25th; Hull on 25th August; North Duffield on 29th August; Stockton-on-Forest on 5th June and Knapton on 5th June and 12th October.

Single bird at Cayton on 2nd July whilst in V.C. 63 singles at Wintersett on 11th May and 3rd September; Blacktoft on 13th June; 30th July; 1st; 6th to 9th; 16th; 19th and 31st August; 3rd September. Wath Ings; 2nd June; 2nd; 4th; 6th and 7th July with another on 26th; 28th and 30th. 4th; 6th and 7th September. Barnsley on 5th June; 25th June; Worsbrough with bird at a Swallow roost; an adult on 27th August joined by an immature on 31st both being present most evenings until 7th September. Huggsett Wood, adult on 20th July; Redmires Res. on 13th August and Whiston Meadows on 14th.

In V.C. 64; two over Fairburn Ings on 31st July with one at Keswick Fitts on 26th June; Eccup Res. on 28th June; Swillington Ings on 16th July. In August single birds at West End on 2nd; Fellbeck on 8th; Otley on 15th/16th; 28th and 29th. High Batts N. R. on 11th September with one at Fairburn Ings on 17th.

A juvenile at Great Langton on 20th August being the only record from V.C. 65.

### Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

The full breeding picture is unsure; four young were reared at Rishworth where the RSPB have viewing facilities. A second pair in V.C. 63 had young taken from the nest whilst in the other breeding areas success was mixed.

Reported quite frequently in V.C. 61, mainly along the coast with single birds involved in all cases. A similar situation exists in V.C. 62 though slightly more inland records. In V.C. 63, in the lowland areas, single birds were reported from seven locations, being regular at Blacktoft. V.C. 64 reported an increase in birds in the lowland areas; 22 locations reporting birds between January and April and again from July to December. Less frequent in the lower areas of V.C. 65 but well distributed along the edges of the higher ground.

### Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Reported to have had an excellent breeding season in most areas with the highest bags for many years recorded.

### Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

The only record received from V.C. 64 was of a female with five chicks in Upper Nidderdale on 23rd May. In V.C. 65; five males and seven females on Feldom MOD ranges near Richmond on 7th February with three males seen nearby on 10th April and 8th May. Also reported as 'present' on Downholme Moor.

### Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Good breeding season in some areas though others including Blacktoft and Sheffield areas reported some decrease in numbers. Coveys of eight to 20 reported from many locations with higher counts of 50 at Goody Cross (V.C. 64) on 15th September; 38 at Edderthorpe on 28th November and 30 at Charm Park (V.C. 62) on 28th December with 34 on Denaby Common on 18th September.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

A slight decrease reported from Blacktoft though elsewhere considered to be unchanged. Largest numbers reported were 68 at Thrybergh on 26th October; 59 at Wath on 30th October; 45 at Pugney's on 18th September; 36 at Worsbrough on 9th November. 140 released at Wentworth on 19th September. All these locations being in V.C. 63. No coveys over 25 reported from V.C. 64 with 20 at Kildale in V.C. 62 being the highest in that V.C. 31 at Flamborough on 12th October and 19 at West Tanfield on 26th November.

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Probably bred at Flamborough where an exhausted bird was found on 8th April being released on 11th. Two present there on 15th May with four on 22nd; two on 23rd/24th and three on 25th. Single at Filey on 4th/5th June; at Spurn on 4th June whilst Bempton reported two on 2nd May; one on 6th; three on 7th and one on 17th. One dead at Winestead on 20th July. In V.C. 62; one calling at Cayton Carrs on 16th May; at Hutton Rudby on 18th/19th June; Fadmoor on 3rd July with two calling before being flushed from corn at Staithes on 31st August. In V.C. 63; singing at Pugney's from 11th to 14th June; Wilsic from 21st June to 1st July; Angler's (Winterset) 26th June and 16th July with one at Wrooton (Doncaster) on 9th July. All records in V.C. 64 were from the Harrogate area with one at Hutton Conyers on 16th and 22nd June; 13th July with two on several days in August to 17th.

Bred in V.C. 65 with a female and five young being seen at Nosterfield on 13th July.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Status would appear to be unchanged with many 'tame' birds being released by shooting interests.

**Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*

A male frequently reported from Whitcliffe Wood, Richmond.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

At least two pairs bred at Hornsea Mere with three at Blacktoft; one at Potteric Carr and probable bred at Old Denaby where three young were reported in August and September. Present at Fairburn Ings throughout the year though no proof of breeding. Thinly distributed in V.C. 61 with up to four at Tophill Low Res. during late summer; three at Flamborough on 23rd October otherwise one to two from a further five locations. Single birds at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough in the latter months with one at Staintondale in late January. In V.C. 63; one to two at 11 locations in the early months with up to 15 at Blacktoft and maximum count there of c20 on 7th February: one to two at nine locations during the latter months with again higher counts from Blacktoft where 15 in mid October and 22 on 12th December. Four at Potteric Carr during September and four at Carlton Marsh on 11th November. In V.C. 64 single birds at seven sites except for seven at Esholt S.W. on 30th October and up to seven at Fairburn Ings during January/February; ten in October and 12 during November. Single bird at Hornby Castle, Bedale on 14th May, the only record from V.C. 65.

**Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*

Single bird at Flamborough on 17th March (PAL). Three, probably four, birds at Tophill Low Res. in autumn with one on 11th August; two on 13th then one to three regularly to 3rd September after which a single adult was reported occasionally to 25th September (BB, PD, TR *et al*). Singles at Blacktoft on 26th August and 22nd October (AG *et al*).

In V.C. 64, singles at Skipton S.W. on 11th September (PMW) and at Fairburn Ings, a juvenile, on 22nd and 24th September (GT).

Addition to the 1987 Report: One at Wombwell Ings from 11th to 15th October (JH *et al*).

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

One flushed from the east end of the canal zone at Spurn on 20th October.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Widespread; breeding in all suitable habitat with no apparent change in status. Largest counts reported were 58 at Tophill Low Res. (V.C. 61) on 11th September; in V.C. 63, 149 at Wath on 7th February with 150 there on 3rd September. 105 at Wentworth on 14th November; in V.C. 64 40 to 50 at Fairburn Ings during the last months of the year with 53 at Knostrop S.F. on 30th December.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Common breeding species on the larger waters with no apparent change in status. In V.C. 61; 444 at Hornsea Mere on 21st February with 830 on 19th September though very low numbers at the end of the year; Tophill Low Res. had 392 during January as the maximum there. V.C. 63 reported 541 at Wintersett on 17th January with 485 there on 18th September increasing to 689 on 23rd October and 715 on 18th December. Pugney's recorded 550 on 11th October thence 643 on 13th November and 626 on 18th December. Fairburn Ings in V.C. 64 reported monthly maxima of 670 in January; 500 in February; 620 during June; 990 in July; 1310 in August; 1510 in September; 1300 during October with 1170 in November and 1160 in December. Elsewhere 523 at Malham Tarn on 15th October and 350+ at Harewood Park on 27th December.

In V.C. 65, Bolton-on-Swale had 452 on 17th January with 525 on 19th September and 710 on 17th December.

**Crane** *Grus grus*

A single bird flew north at Hornsea Mere on 11th April (ES) with one south at East Newton on 29th (AFJ) no doubt being the bird seen on several occasions the following day at Spurn before finally departing to the north and being reported from Tophill Low Res. on 1st May (DJV, JBL) and from Flamborough on 2nd (MN, PJW). Two northeast at Hornsea on 1st June (GRB). Single birds at Blacktoft on 15th May and 23rd June (AG et al) with one at Langton near Malton on 25th September (RHA).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Bred in V.C. 61 at Spurn (unsuccessfully) and on the railway sidings at Hessle hatching two young. In V.C. 63; one pair at Blaxton settling ponds reared young whilst at Blacktoft one pair was unsuccessful. Breeding in V.C. 64 stated to be on the increase with a similar situation in V.C. 65.

Monthly maxima at Spurn during the winter being reported as: 1500 on 31st January; no count in February; 2000 on 1st March; 2000 on 5th October; 3600 on 25th November and 1815 on 18th December. Early autumn peaks here were 2000 on 15th; 17th and 30th September with 1000 to 1800 on most days of this month. Southerly passage reported during late summer/early autumn with 115 on 24th July; 600 on 17th August and 559 on 2nd September. Similar passage noted elsewhere along the coast with a spring peak of 116 at Flamborough on 3rd April thence 83 on 23rd July; 105 on 30th; 166 on 2nd August with 107 on 5th; 116 on 14th; 116 on 17th; 164 on 22nd after which 82 on 2nd was the last high count. Hornsea had 90 on 2nd September as the peak count there whilst Filey reported 110 on 21st August though a high tide roost there on 27th September held 650 birds. Light westerly passage along the Humber noted at Sunk Island with 56 on 27th August and 31 the following day. Blacktoft recorded westerly passage on 26 days between 15th July and 21st September with 111 on 1st August and 139 on 6th.

In V.C. 64, 40 were reported from Gouthwaite during February with 33 in March; 40 at Arncliffe on 28th March; 40 at Thornley on 3rd April and 33 at Otley on 27th March. Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, had peaks of 43 on 16th March and 21 on 13th June whilst at Nosterfield 52 were reported in February; 54 in March and 61 in April; 60 on 28th February at Masham G.P. with 76 on 11th March decreasing to 45 on 5th June thence 43 on 1st August.

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Two at Spurn on 19th April. Single birds at Beacon Land Ponds, Kilnsea on 2nd May (NAB) and Spurn on 3rd September.

Addition to the 1986 Report: the bird at Catwick was also present on 24th June (BR).

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

A single bird at Bridlington on 7th August (GMB) is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

In V.C. 61 bred at Tophill Low Res.; Pulfen Bog and Burnby and attempted to do so at Bransholme. In V.C. 63, three pairs at Blaxton Settling Ponds, two at Edderthorpe Flash with one pair at each of the following; North Anston colliery tip; Blacktoft Sands; Potteric Carr; Sandall Beat; Wroot; Monk Bretton; Pugney's and Worsbrough Valley with six pairs breeding in the Sheffield area though no locations reported and some may therefore have been in Derbyshire. Also attempted to breed at a further three locations. In V.C. 65 definite breeding occurred at Scorton Quarry; Bolton-on-Swale; Masham G.P. and Snape with probable breeding at three locations between Kirby Fleetham and Great Langton; possibly nine pairs in the V.C. No locations reported for V.C. 64 though about 22 pairs bred with poor success.

The first arrival was on 12th March at Farnham well before the next at Edderthorpe Flash on 23rd thereafter birds were reported from a further nine locations before the end of the month. Spring peaks reported 20 at Fairburn Ings on 26th April; 11 at Wath Ings on 22nd April with a similar count at Candy farm on 3rd May and in V.C. 61, seven at Tophill Low Res. on 14th May. Autumn counts gave 17 at Wath Ings on 12th July; 11 at Aldwarke S.F. on 2nd August and ten at Blacktoft on 20th July. Last birds were at Fairburn on 17th September; Misson on 18th and Blacktoft on 23rd.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Possibly as many as ten pairs bred at Spurn with average success. No other breeding records received from V.C. 61. In V.C. 63; two pairs at Blaxton Settling Ponds (where four pairs bred in 1987) with one pair at Potteric Carr. Attempted breeding occurred at Blacktoft and near Bolton Ings. In V.C. 64 bred at Farnham; Gouthwaite; Hay-a-Park and Swillington Ings whilst in V.C. 65 breeding occurred at Pallet Hill Quarry (Catterick); Scorton Quarry; Nosterfield and Masham G.P..

Maxima at Spurn were 100 on 18th May with 100 also on 30th August. 115 reported from Cherry Cobb Sands on 2nd May with 98 at Stone Creek on 8th. Southerly passage noted on many days along the coast with 14th August being the peak day when 61 passed Filey; 114 off Flamborough; 156 at Hornsea and 123 at Spurn. 25 reported from Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 24th January with 27 there on 12th December. Small numbers at many locations in the other three V.C.s though 13 at Fairburn Ings on 2nd May and 30 at Nosterfield on 2nd June.

Birds showing the characteristics of the race *C.h. tundrae* were reported from Flamborough with three on 11th June and two on 13th and 14th.

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

A single bird in the Idle valley on 23rd April (RJS, NW); three on Burbage Moor on 1st May (KC) with one there from 6th to 7th (KC, KRG, RDH) and two on 15th (JH). Singles at Flamborough on 8th May and 11th June (PAL) with three at Aldbrough on 24th and 25th May (AFJ, GRB) and four north at Kilnsea on 3rd September (IC, MGN).

**American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*

A single bird at Spurn between the 20th and 26th May was the first for the Observatory (NAB, BRS *et al*). A single bird near Nunkeeling on 27th December (WFC). The former is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* whilst the latter has been rejected by them.

### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Bred in normal numbers on the high ground of V.C. 64; a similar comment being received from V.C. 63 with the exception of numbers being down in two areas near Huddersfield owing to 'improvements' to moorland fringe for farming.

In the early months numbers were generally small with the exception of the Hornsea area where several flocks totalled 5150 on 11th January; 6050 on 17th and 7200 on 31st. c1000 at Sunk Island on 23rd January with c1400 there on 7th February. In V.C. 63; 1000 at Pugney's on 20th January; 21st March and 13th April with 1200 at Wath on 13th March; 2800 at Blacktoft on 9th January and 1070 there on 21st February. 1000 at Carlton Marsh on 1st February. 1000 at Fairburn during January.

More widespread flocks during the latter months with c2100 in the Hornsea area; 1000 at Folkton on 23rd November; 1200 at Fisherman's Channel on 24th August with Sunk Island recording between 100 and 1500 from mid July to mid September thence 4000 on 18th September and 3820 on 26th December. 1500 at Tophill Low Res. on 17th September. Large counts in V.C. 63 were 3100 at Blacktoft on 31st August with 1500 during September and October thence 3800 on 28th December. 1500 at Wath on 21st October with 1000+ on ten days until the end of November. 1000 at Pugney's on 19th November; 1200 at Pontefract on 24th December. 1000 at Fairburn Ings on 31st December and 1000 at Harrogate on 15th/16th November were the only large counts in V.C. 64 whilst in V.C. 65 c1000 were at West Tanfield on 24th November and 1475 at Nosterfield on 10th December.

### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Winter monthly maxima at Spurn of 30 on 2nd January; no count in February; 35 on 28th March; 90 on 5th October; 40 on 29th November and 53 on 18th December. Autumn passage peaked at 90 during the last days of September. Sunk Island held 270 on 6th February decreasing to 220 on 21st then 110 on 5th March before increasing to 231 on 20th March thence 416 on 14th May with only 59 the following day. 101 had returned by 27th August with 85 on 11th September after which counts of 100 to 200 until December when 298 on 11th; 288 on 24th and 474 on 26th. Nearby, Cherry Cobb Sands recorded 140 on 2nd May with 360 on 5th and 35 on 5th June. Up to 58 on the beach at Barmston during the early months with 62 at Speeton on 23rd October. 32 at Flamborough on 24th December whilst at Filey 74 flew north on 15th September. Away from the coast Tophill Low Res. had five on 15th September with four on 29th and seven on 2nd October.

More records than usual in V.C. 63 with up to four at Blacktoft on many days in May; August and September and maxima of 11 on 16th September; 14 on 27th October and eight on 4th November. Five at Pugney's on 16th September with 23 at Wath on 14th. One to two birds at seven other locations in this V.C.

One to two at several sites in V.C. 64 with three at Fairburn Ings on 9th April; three again on 16th September; four at Chelker Res. on 2nd September and six at Swillington Ings on 1st October.

Two at Nosterfield in V.C. 65 on 19th November otherwise single birds in this V.C. at Nosterfield on 13th September and Thornton Steward from 12th to 19th November.

### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Apparently had a normal breeding season though at Edderthorpe Flash 13 pairs raised only 15 young owing to the attentions of 'egg collectors'. Large flocks were widespread during both winters with 8500 at Blacktoft on 9th January (record count for that location); 4000 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in this month; up to 2300 near Hornsea during January/February; 3100 at Blacktoft on 21st February; 1200 at Otley on 29th January; up to 1750 at Sunk Island in February and at Nosterfield 1000 in January.

The latter months saw 4000 at Tophill Low Res. on 17th September with 2000 there on the 3rd; 3200 at Sunk Island on 17th December. 1200 at Stokesley on 24th December. In V.C. 63; 1000 at Broadstones on 22nd July with 1200 at Skipton on 21st August; 1000 to 1200 at Wath Ings from late August to early December with 2200 on 3rd December; 2800 at Blacktoft on 28th October and 3200 on 28th December; 1200 at Edderthorpe Flash on 26th October; 1200 at Thrybergh during the last week of August; 1000 at Pugney's on 3rd

December; 1000 in Pontefract Park during December and 1100 at the Rother Valley C.P. on 25th December.

In V.C. 64; 1000 at Fairburn during September/October; 1000 at Collingham on 2nd December; 2000+ in the Ribble valley in August; 5000 at East Rington on 21st October and 1500 near Skipton on 21st October.

V.C. 65 had large flocks at Nosterfield of 2000 in July; 2500 in August and 1500 to 1600 during November/December. 3175 at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th August and 3450 on 31st December.

Little passage reported with 1227 south at Spurn on 27th October as the highest count.

#### **Knot *Calidris canuta***

Maxima at Spurn during the winter months was 6000 on 31st January; 3000 on 6th February with 1000 on 5th March; in October 300 on 5th; 26th and 31st; 6500 on 19th November and 12000+ on 7th December. At Sunk Island counts increased from c650 on 2nd January to c1000 on 23rd then c1800 on 6th February and c3700 on 20th after which numbers decreased to 650 by 5th March to 420 on 19th March and 21 on 14th May. First returned on 17th July with maximum of 415 on 12th November but some increase in December to 1610 on 11th.

Coastal passage generally light with the peak days being 24th July when 283 were reported at Flamborough; 214 at Filey; 243 at Hornsea and 780 at Spurn. On 14th August; 48 off Filey; 211 at Flamborough; 127 at Hornsea and 205 at Spurn. 64 passed Filey on 24th August with 265 off Spurn on 27th October.

Away from the coast, in V.C. 63, reported quite frequently at Blacktoft usually involving one to five birds but 21 west there on 29th July and 21 east on 23rd October. 33 flew west at Wintersett Res. on 27th August with seven at Wath Ings on 14th September. One to two also reported on other days from both these locations with single birds reported on one day at each at Redmires Res.; Thrybergh and the Rother Valley C.P..

12 at Fairburn Ings on 12th November with one there on 3rd/4th August and from 10th to 17th September. Five at Swillington Ings on 3rd December.

In V.C. 65, five at Nosterfield on 25th August and one at Leighton Res. on 26th June.

#### **Sanderling *Calidris alba***

High numbers were reported from Scarborough during both winters with 98 on 6th January; 120 on 25th thereafter up to 40 until late March. 35 on 13th November with 105 on 26th. Filey had monthly maxima of 28 in January; 60 during February; 80 in March and 28 in April; 56 in November and 100 in December. 88 at Bridlington on 2nd January the only record from that area. Light coastal passage though 233 south at Flamborough on 14th August with 19 off Filey that day; 91 at Hornsea and 109 off Spurn. 228 recorded passing Spurn on 24th July though only 25 at Filey; 20 at Flamborough and 19 at Hornsea.

Small numbers reported from the Humber with 19 at Sunk Island on 26th March and 20 the following day otherwise one to seven birds there on several days of early autumn. Three at Cherry Cobb on 5th May with six at Stone Creek on 4th June. In V.C. 63, eight at Blacktoft on 1st May with four on 22nd and two on 25th May and 21st August. Two at Ingbirchworth Res. on 30th April otherwise single birds at Pugney's; Angler's; Wath Ings and Redmires Res. on one to three days. A poor year in V.C. 64 with single birds at Fairburn Ings from 11th to 13th May; Gouthwaite on 24th May; Staveley on 8th June; Swillington Ings on 30th July and Fairburn on 23rd September.

In V.C. 65, single birds at Nosterfield on 4th May and 2nd June and at Scorton Quarry on 5th May.

#### **Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

Small numbers reported during spring with single birds at Blacktoft on 3rd/4th; 14th/15th and 22nd May; 4th June; at Flamborough on 12th May; Spurn on 14th May; Fairburn Ings from 2nd to 7th May. One at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 14th May with two on 22nd; three on 24th and four on 25th.

Slightly more during autumn though a poor year with Blacktoft having three on 23rd August; up to 25 on 1st September with 32 on 3rd decreasing to 20 by 15th and ten on 18th with two to four at the end of the month. Three at Wath Ings on 6th September; four on 7th; seven on 8th thence six on 9th with five on 10th and 11th, three on 12th thereafter one occasionally to 30th. Three at Fitling on 10th September with four there the following day and six at Tophill Low Res. on 3rd. 27 flew south at Spurn and two north on 2nd September. Two at Nosterfield on 2nd September; two at Gouthwaite on 14th with one at 17 locations in September on one or more days.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

One at Bransholme from 3rd to 5th May with another bird from 8th to 10th; two different birds on 11th and 12th (four in all) (BR). Two at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 8th May (DMP) and 9th (RPC *et al*) with one on 23rd/24th and 25th and again on 27th (NAB, RJS, GJS *et al*). One at both Sammy's Point, Kilnsea and Easington Lagoons on 22nd (AC, GJS) may have been this last Kilnsea B.L. Ponds bird. Single birds at Blacktoft on 19th; 22nd May and 13th June. (AG).

Single birds in autumn at Stone Creek on 20th August (JW); Fisherman's Channel on 29th August (TC) and Riccall on 6th September (DAR).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Single juveniles reported at Angler's Lake, Wintersett from 3rd to 7th September (PB *et al*); at Wath Ings/Bolton Slurry on 10th (SCR, DJS, DMW *et al*); 11th; 12th and 16th September at Easington Lagoons (MH, DW *et al*). At Blacktoft from 30th September to 4th October (AG *et al*) and at Bolton-on-Swale from 30th September to 2nd October (DB, RT *et al*).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Reported in May from Spurn with one on 7th; three on 12th; one on 14th/15th; two on 16th and one on 23rd. Elsewhere singles at Filey on 2nd/3rd May; Staveley on 7th/8th and 25th and Bolton-on-Swale on 9th.

An excellent autumn with birds widespread. In V.C. 61, Flamborough had 21 on 23rd August with 16 on 27th thence six on 29th; nine on 31st; nine on 6th September and nine on 10th. Seven at Burstwick G.P. on 30th August with 18 on 2nd September; Fisherman's Channel (Sunk Island) recorded 12 on 24th August increasing to 36 on 27th; 65 on 29th and 90 on 30th with 95 the following day decreasing to 45 on 1st September. 62 at Easington Lagoons on 27th August with 30 on 29th; 20 on 31st but 80+ on 3rd September. At Saltend the peak was later with 31 on 8th September; 11 on 15th then 51 on 21st and 54 on 22nd falling to 12 on 3rd October. 18 at Sunk Island shore on 29th August.

None reported from V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 Blacktoft reported the best ever autumn with small numbers of adults present during July then juveniles appearing by mid August with six on 19th; up to 17 on 26th; 51 on 28th and 85 on 29th with the peak count of 94 on 31st. 90 present on 1st September with 55 to 60 from 2nd to 7th; 30 to 40 to the 13th after which small counts but 25 on 26th thence three on 1st October with the last on 23rd. Ten west at Pugney's on 27th August; 18 at Wath Ings on 27th with 11 on 28th and daily there until 10th October with 14 on 10th September; 12 on 11th; 15 on 12th/13th; up to 13 to 16th then 12 on 20th. the last being recorded on 15th October.

In V.C. 64, two at Staveley on 1st September with one at Fairburn on 6th; eight there from 8th to 16th with six until the 19th then two to 22nd and one until 24th. One at Gouthwaite Res. on 24th and 25th.

In V.C. 65; 23 at Nosterfield on 27th August had decreased to five by 30th and two on 31st though 23 there again on 1st September. 21 at Bolton-on-Swale on 29th August with one on 30th and 13 on 31st with small numbers present during September but 15 on 1st; nine on 2nd and 15 again on 3rd. 21 at Pallett Hill on 29th August. One at Nosterfield from 4th to 6th October with a late bird there on 6th November.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

During the early months coastal counts gave 33 at Scarborough on 24th January; 64 at Whitby on 6th February with 48 on 15th and 140 in that area on 21st March. Monthly maxima at Filey of 120 in January; 60 in January; 60 in February; 250 in March and 287 in April decreasing to 65 in May with the last bird on 21st. Flamborough reported 67 on 9th January and 48 on 26th March. Slightly lower counts through the latter months of the year with 50 at Filey in November and 41 during December; up to 27 at Scarborough in November; 58 at Whitby on 17th December and 104 at White Nab on 24th November. Only small numbers reported south of Flamborough Head with 16 south off Hornsea on 19th November; nine south at Spurn on 26th September and five on the beach at Barmston on 19th November.

Single birds at Blacktoft on 25th September and 10th October.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

In V.C. 65 bred in small numbers at many moorland locations; in V.C. 64, 33 pairs in six tetrads in SE07 with few comments on other areas; V.C. 63 reported normal breeding on the high ground.

Peak counts on the Humber at Spurn during winter were 124 in January; 200 in March; 1000 in October; 1100 in November and 1000 during December. Sunk Island held 1000 on 17th January; 2320 on 6th February with 2550 on 27th; 1200 on March 5th and 13th; c600 on 13th August increasing to c2000 the following day but c300 on 27th with small counts until 2140 on 12th November 4330 on 26th November; 2420 on 11th December and 6475 on 26th.

Blacktoft, in V.C. 63 had up to 150 in January with 310 in March and 400 in April. 390 in July; 150 in August; 750 during September with 1250 on 27th October but only 60 during November and 110 in December. Wath Ings recorded up to 15 in April with 28 flying west there on 10th May; 93 on 14th September; 30 on 16th October and 36 on 7th December. 24 south at Pugney's on 3rd December whilst 39 flew west at Ardsley on 16th September.

26 at Fairburn Ings, V.C. 64, on 2nd January though few elsewhere in this V.C. until spring when up to ten at 16 locations with 21 at Fairburn on 13th May and 17 at Gouthwaite during April. Reported from 15 locations in autumn with 85 at Gouthwaite in September; 25 at Fairburn Ings on 30th July; 42 there on 17th September and 15 on 2nd/3rd December. 18 at Swillington Ings on 30th July. Small counts in V.C. 65 excepting Nosterfield where up to 26 were present in May; 30 in July and 67 in December.

Heavy coastal passage noted on 24th July with 741 south at Filey; 1065 at Flamborough; 1345 south at Hornsea and 1700 at Spurn. 149 north at Filey on 14th September with 211 at Flamborough; 139 at Hornsea but very few at Spurn. On 15th 418 passed Filey with 1857 at Flamborough (the highest count for that location) but none further south. 405 south at Spurn on 27th October.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

An adult present at Blacktoft from 15th to 20th July (AG, RJS *et al.*).

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Very few in V.C. 61. One at both Paull and Sunk Island on 21st February. A very poor spring with only one to three birds at Bransholme; Tophill Low Res. and Flamborough. In autumn Tophill Low Res. recorded between 20 and 35 during mid September after a slow increase during August to 13 by the end of that month. Nine at Burstwick on 18th September and eight at Filey on 27th August the only other locations to report any parties with nine south over the sea at Spurn on 2nd September.

V.C. 63 reported small numbers in spring with seven at Blacktoft on 22nd April and one to four at seven other locations. Blacktoft reported an excellent autumn with numbers increasing through June to 12 on 26th thence ten to 16 through July until 26 on 25th and 32 on 31st – these all being adults. Juveniles appeared in August as numbers present increased to 40 by 8th and further to 82 on 28th. In September a further increase to 120 on 4th and a peak of 148 on 11th with high numbers throughout the month. October saw up to 77 with

31 still present on 1st November decreasing to 25 on 13th after which only single birds were reported with the last on 7th December. Although quite widespread throughout this V.C. numbers were small with Wath Ings and Tudworth both reporting five birds as maxima.

Single birds were reported in spring in V.C. 64 from Fairburn Ings; Mickletown Ings; Gouthwaite; Skipton S.F. and Leventhorpe Hall (Leeds). Slightly more birds in autumn with the first at Fairburn on 25th July increasing to a peak there of seven on 14th August; six at Staveley on 8th and 11th September with eight other locations reporting up to three birds.

Single birds at Bolton-on-Swale from 15th to 18th April and at Nosterfield on 23rd May. In autumn recorded almost daily at Bolton-on-Swale from 9th August to 30th September usually one to four birds with eight on 6th September. One at Nosterfield on 8th October.

#### **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Although still quite widespread would appear to be less numerous than ten years ago with slightly less birds reported at fewer locations. In V.C. 61 reported from 11 locations, only Spurn with up to two birds on several occasions and Filey with three on 19th November and four on 28th December having more than one bird.

Two birds at Clifton Airfield on several occasions otherwise single birds at three other locations in V.C. 62.

V.C. 63 reported from 16 locations with again mainly only one bird at each though two occasionally at Blacktoft; up to two at Wath Ings with six there on 27th February and five on 20th; 23rd and 25th March. The Rother valley C.P. had two on 10th January with four on 16th February and six on 4th December.

Scarce in V.C. 64, again usually one bird but two occasionally and three at Staveley on 14th January. Only two records of single birds in the latter months at Otley on 29th December and Malham Tarn on 13th November though this latter was only the third record from that location.

#### **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Bred at one location in V.C. 61 and suspected of doing so at a further four. At least 16 pairs at Wath Ings with five at Edderthorpe Flash; further breeding reported from 11 locations in the Sheffield area and at many other locations in this V.C. though numbers being affected by drainage and 'improvement' schemes.

Little proven breeding from V.C. 64 but considered to have done well where reported.

Numbers in V.C. 61 low with 55 during December at Filey and 50 at Flamborough on 6th March. Good numbers at Blacktoft, in V.C. 63, with 180 on 29th January; 255 on 20th February and 230 on 9th March. 80 at Carlton Marsh on 2nd and 27th January with 110 at Wath Ings on 4th March. In the latter months again good numbers at Blacktoft with 95 on 20th September increasing to 260 on 25th October and then 141 at the end of the year. 70 at Wath Ings on 15th and 20th September with 80 on 12th November; 108 at Carlton Marsh on 18th December; 76 at Worsbrough on 12th December. Very low counts in V.C. 64 during the first two months of the year with 20 at Fairburn as the highest though in March 141 recorded there on 31st decreasing to 26 by 16th April. In autumn Fairburn held 75 on 11th September with 62 during October decreasing to under 30 in November and December. Other counts being 58 at Otley S.F. on 2nd November and 89 at Farnham in December.

#### **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Although quite widespread definite breeding records were few, mainly in V.C. 63. Six pairs estimated to breed at Wilsic with four at Wadsworth Wood and in the Rivelin area ten plus birds were reported on 12th June.

Little immigration noted along the coast with Flamborough having 15 on 12th October; 16 on 20th; 13 on 25th and 16 on 3rd November. 15 at Filey on 25th October with ten at Spurn on 12th October, 14 on 20th and ten on 25th.

### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Only reported in the winter months from Sunk Island with two on 17th January; four on 6th February with three on 21st and seven on 18th December. Numbers at this location were low throughout the year with eight on 3rd September and 29th October as maxima. Nearby Cherry Cobb had 14 on 5th May. Quite regular at Blacktoft with four on 13th March; reported on ten days in April with seven on 4th and 18 on 16th; on five days in May with four on both 1st and 16th. Single birds on two days in June; two on 1st July; five on 2nd thence one to three from 19th with six on 31st. Up to four daily in August; regularly reported in September with 13 on 6th and 26th and up to seven in October. Five at Wath Ings on 27th April with 26 on 28th and one to two on five other days during this month. Two there on 4th August and three on 3rd September. Six at Thorpe Marsh on 30th and 31st August with the same number at Potteric Carr on 11th September.

Very quiet year in V.C. 64 with two at Fairburn Ings on 25th May and one there on 8th and at Leventhorpe Hall on 24th and 25th. In autumn, two at Fairburn on 27th July with one on 28th remaining until 5th August. Single birds there on 6th/7th September and 9th October.

In V.C. 65, single birds at Leighton Res. on 5th April; Bolton-on-Swale on 7th and 13th; Nosterfield on 28th; two at Masham G.P. on 12th June; one at Nosterfield on 7th August; Bolton-on-Swale on 17th with two there from 18th until 5th September and finally one at Nosterfield on 15th.

Little coastal passage with six south at Filey on 24th July and five south at Hornsea the same day. 14 south at Hornsea on 29th August when six flew south at Spurn.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Usual numbers along the Humber at Sunk Island with 127 on 2nd January; 189 on 23rd increasing to 364 on 6th February thence 283 on 20th decreasing to 41 on 13th March. 44 present there on 25th June increasing slowly to 78 on 3rd September then 127 on 3rd October; 273 on 19th November with 333 on 31st December. 98 were roosting at Cherry Cobb on 5th May whilst further upstream at Blacktoft westerly passage was reported daily between 24th June and 7th September with a total of 171 birds recorded; peaks being 35 on 16th July and 23 on 28th August. Daily on the lagoons at Blacktoft from 5th September to 28th October with 22 on 9th September and 23 on 12th. Passage along the coast was light though 234 at Filey Brigg on 27th August with 76 the following day. 78 flew south at Spurn on 27th whilst Flamborough had 31 on 28th. This passage was reflected inland with seven at Wintersett Res. on 27th; 14 at Tophill Low Res. on 29th when 25 flew northwest at Tinsley S.F.. In September 23 flew south at Stapleton on 7th with eight at Wintersett on 8th; 18 west at Fairburn on 9th and 13 there on 11th.

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

The first of the year were six north at Filey Brigg on 27th March after which single birds were reported from Spurn on 4th April and on 9th at Spurn; Hessle and Thorpe Marsh. Quite widespread during the latter half of this month and reported on most days during May in small numbers with 16 at Flamborough on 8th May when 28 were recorded at Spurn. Very heavy coastal passage recorded in late July with 37 at Flamborough on 23rd; 47 there on 24th when 55 passed Filey; 96 at Flamborough on 29th with 30 on the 30th; 179 at Flamborough; 190 at Filey (the highest documented daily count for Yorkshire); 127 at Spurn and 30 at Hornsea. In August, 21 at Filey on 2nd; 63 at Flamborough on 4th; 38 at Spurn on 14th; 27 at Flamborough on 25th and 27th with 32 at Filey on 28th. Small numbers inland with 25 at Staveley on 18th August; 14 at Edderthorpe Flash on 19th; 16 at Hutton Conyers on 6th September and 23 west at Blacktoft on 7th. Reported in October from Spurn with one on 2nd; Saltend, one on 3rd and Spurn with three on the 4th.

### Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Breeding status of birds on the high ground considered to be unchanged; thought to be increasing as a breeding species on the lowland areas of V.C. 63 and in areas of V.C. 62. No comments received from V.C. 61.

Numbers at Sunk Island during the early months were low with 380 on 21st February as the peak; 493 had returned by 3rd July increasing to 950 by the 24th with between 750 and 900 during August; 1188 on 17th September was the highest count of the year with 950 on 1st October thence small numbers after 300 at the end of that month.

In V.C. 64 birds had left the lowland wintering grounds by early March with flocks in several locations; c500 near Malham Tarn on 29th being the largest. In early autumn 500 were gathered on the Denton/Askwith Moors by mid July and by early September all had left the V.C. excepting those at a few lowland wintering locations. In V.C. 65, Bolton-on-Swale recorded 350 on 21st January with 371 on 31st and 218 on 23rd December whilst at Leyburn 500 were present on 3rd January and a similar count on 27th February with 425 on 19th November.

Little coastal passage reported though 50 flew east from Spurn on 20th April and westerly passage reported from Blacktoft from June to September with 816 birds being counted; the peak days being 29th June with 63; 13th July, 95 and 16th July with 93.

### Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

One at Newington Flash on 14th February was the only record during the early winter months (one was at this location on 25th January 1987). In April, single birds were recorded at Tophill Low Res. on 9th/10th; Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 17th; Pugney's on 27th; Blacktoft on 30th and from Fairburn Ings on the 5th, 24th and 26th with two there on 23rd. Single birds in May at Nosterfield on 1st; Spurn on the 6th; Rombalds Moor on 14th and Blacktoft from 15th to 19th. Two at Wath Ings on 1st May with one from 2nd to 5th and again on 12th/13th. June saw birds at Blacktoft with one on 11th; four on 12th thence one to three until the end of that month. One at Potteric Carr on 18th and one at Spurn on 20th.

More widespread in autumn with one to three birds at some 24 locations and higher counts of five at Wath Ings from 26th to 28th August; Blacktoft with six on 24th August thence up to five to 28th; six at Farnham on 26th August with five at Flamborough on 2nd; four at Burstwick G.P. from 25th to 27th August and five on 28th whilst at Beacon Lane ponds, Kilnsea 13 were present on 30th with four the following day. A single bird was present at Blacktoft almost daily until the end of the year.

### Redshank *Tringa totanus*

From comments received breeding status would appear unchanged.

Monthly maxima at Spurn from January to May were between 120 and 300 though after 10th May numbers were below 20 until end of June; increased during July to 500 by 25th thence maxima of 700 on 30th/31st August; 1500 on 11th September; 750 in October with 470 in November and 269 in December. At Sunk Island, 598 were present on 20th February falling to 480 the following day thence down to 200 by 5th March and 150 on 20th. 75 had returned by 10th July increasing to 300 by 24th thence 806 on 30th though only 340 on 31st. Between 400 and 600 most days throughout August and into early September after which 200 on 8th/9th October and 100 on 6th November after which less than 100 reported.

Small counts in V.C. 63 during the winter months with a few favoured locations having more; Wath Ings with 14 on 29th January and 18 in mid February; Blacktoft having peaks of 25 in January and 31 during February. A similar situation during the latter months of the year with 20 at Wath Ings during December and up to 84 at Blacktoft in November and 80 in December. Peak counts at Blacktoft outside these months being 145 on 31st August and 130 on 26th September.

52 were at Fairburn Ings from 9th to 11th January with 35 from 15th to 28th February and up to 12 in December. 12 at Bolton-on-Swale during January and February with 13 on 10th December and 17 on 28th.

Coastal passage light with the exception of 24th July when 222 flew south at Filey; 281 at Flamborough; 348 at Hornsea and 400 at Spurn. 172 at Flamborough on 14th August with 85 at Spurn the same day.

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

A single bird at Fairburn Ings on 1st January and again from 24th February to mid April whilst at nearby Mickletown Ings one was recorded on 18th/19th March; possibly the Fairburn bird. One at Wath Ings on 30th March otherwise not until late April were birds widespread with one to three at 16 locations in May. Higher counts were reported from Blacktoft with four on 9th; 12th and 29th May; four at Stone Creek on 8th; five at Kilnsea (Sammy's Point) on 8th with an influx into the Kilnsea area on the 22nd when 17 were counted at Beacon Lane Ponds and 13 at Sammy's Point.

Many records during the autumn of one to four birds with five at Filey on several days in August; 11 at Beacon Lane Ponds, Kilnsea on 3rd August; 16 there on 14th; 14 on 15th; 18 on 30th and ten on 31st; six at Sunk Island on 21st August with eight on 28th whilst at Blacktoft six were present on 17th July and ten on 23rd; 11 there on 25th August; up to eight during September and in October, six on 15th/16th and seven on 21st. Wath Ings reported five on 9th and 31st August, seven on 12th to 14th September whilst Pugney's had five on 20th August. In V.C. 64, eight were at Fairburn Ings on 26th August with six at Gouthwaite on 14th.

11 at Spurn on 31st August and nine there on 1st September were no doubt some of the Kilnsea birds.

One or two birds at Fairburn Ings in November until 27th with one at Wath on 21st; one at Fairburn from 27th December until the end of the year whilst one flew over Wintersett Res. on 29th.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

A single bird at Fairburn Ings on 5th May (JC, CM). The fifth county record.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Recorded in January from Pocklington Canal on 27th; Willowgarth on 30th; Tunnel Pits (Doncaster) on 17th; Edderthorpe, occasionally; Candy Farm, regularly; Wath, daily with up to three birds and Esholt S.F.. These locations also recorded birds during February and March, mainly one bird but four at Wath on 19th March and three at Edderthorpe on 6th with up to three at Tophill Low Res.. One to four birds at some 14 locations during spring with birds becoming more numerous and widespread during mid to late June, Wath Ings having seven by the 26th increasing to nine on 2nd July then ten on 15th and 14 by 30th. In August Wath recorded peaks of 18 on 10th and 22nd with 19 on 12th and at least ten on a further 18 days of the month; 17 were present on 1st September with ten on several other days this month. Blacktoft had birds present from 22nd June with six on 8th July; 13 on 16th and 15 on 20th thence in August a peak of 19 on the 6th with 16 on 1st September decreasing to one to two by the end of the month. Tophill Low Res. reported a gradual build up from two on 26th June to 20 by 27th July; 26 on 4th August and 35 on 11th thereafter between 25 and 32 daily for most of that month with 20 still present on 9th September decreasing to one by the end of the month. Ten at Fairburn Ings on 12th/13th August otherwise no other location reported double figures. One to three at several locations to early November with later birds at Bransholme on 30th November; Thorpe Marsh, with four in December; one to two at Wath Ings in this month and one at Otley G.P. on 28th December.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

A single bird at Tophill Low Res. from 23rd to 28th April, the first of spring with one at Wombwell from 29th to 3rd May. Birds were recorded during this month at 13 locations with two birds at Spurn on the 9th and 12th; Kilnsea on 13th; Blacktoft on 24th and three at Spurn on the 8th and at Tophill Low Res. on the 19th. In June single birds at Blacktoft on 4th and Nosterfield on 10th.

In July, single birds at Tophill Low Res.; Kilnsea; Gouthwaite and Willowgarth. Recorded at nine locations in August with all locations reporting single birds excepting Nosterfield where five were reported on 18th. Two at Spurn on 2nd September with two at Tophill Low Res. on both 11th and 15th whilst single birds were reported from a further seven locations. One at Wath Ings on 30th September with another remaining at Aldwarke S.F. from 25th September until 9th October.

#### **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucus*

An early arrival was at Esholt S.F. on 13th March with the next at Ulley Res. on 11th April and Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th. By 17th birds were present at many locations with spring peaks of 22 at Gouthwaite on 24th April; 11 at Hornsea Mere on 17th May and ten at both Booth Dam on 5th May and Kilnsea on 13th May.

Reported to have had a good breeding season in V.C. 63 with apparently unchanged status in other areas.

16 at Bolton-on-Swale on 28th June; 21 at Hornsea Mere on 22nd July whilst at Gouthwaite 107 were counted on 25th June (the highest concentration recorded in Yorkshire) with 70 still present there on 3rd July.

Single birds reported in late October from Brookfoot Lake on 27th; Worsbrough Res. and Fairburn on 28th and Swillington Ings on 29th with one at the Rother valley C.P. on 5th December.

#### **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Low counts at Filey during the year with up to 50 in March as the peak. A similar situation at Flamborough though indications of passage with 100 on 3rd April and again in August with 156 on 14th and 82 on 28th. Peak counts at Spurn being 120 on 4th May and a similar count on 28th September. 200 in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 5th January with 84 at Whitby on 6th February; 99 at Saltwick Nab on 19th February. 80 had returned to Scarborough by 3rd August with slightly lower counts there to the end of the year; 70 at Saltwick Nab on 10th November and 56 at Whitby on 28th October.

19 at Paull, on the Humber, on 17th January whilst at Sunk Island 29 were present on 6th February with 33 the following day and 23 on 14th May; small numbers there during the latter months with 16 on 26th December as the peak.

Blacktoft had birds on many days during spring and autumn with one to three being involved though in May, six on 6th; five on 8th and nine on the 12th with up to seven then until the 16th. Five at Wombwell Ings on 8th May and 12 at Fairburn on this same date when four were at Otley. Two at Nosterfield on 31st remained until 2nd June with three on the 1st. Fewer birds reported in autumn with five at Wintersett Res. on 13th August and two at Nosterfield on 24th July whilst up to three occasionally at Blacktoft during both August and September.

#### **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

A single female at Wombwell Ings on 2nd June (RT *et al*). One at Tophill Low Res. on 1st and 2nd September (PD, BB, TR *et al*).

#### **Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Single birds were reported at Flamborough on 25th August; 14th September; 6th and 7th October; 2nd November and 6th December (AMA, JCL, PAL). At Filey on four days between 28th October and 4th November (DJS, PMS *et al*) and another there on 18th November (ARC). One at Saltend from 4th to 6th September (BR *et al*) and one at Scarborough on 13th October (KW).

#### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A single north at Spurn on 2nd January with three east there on 16th May. Single birds at Flamborough on 19th and 26th June thereafter became more numerous during July with two being reported on nine days of that month at this location with three on 16th and five the following day. One at Hornsea on 15th with three at Spurn on 16th and one on 17th

and 26th. August saw very few birds at Flamborough with a total of 56 during the month; four on both 1st and 21st with nine on 26th and seven on 27th. 66 at Hornsea on 13 days during the month with peak of 14 on 21st; single birds on seven days at Spurn with four on 11th and 30th. Single birds at Scarborough and Staithes on the last two days of the month. 318 at Flamborough during September with small numbers during the early part of the month thence five on 18th and 23rd; 94 on 24th; 77 on 25th; ten on 26th; nine on 27th; 14 on 28th; 65 on 29th and 22 on 30th. 81 passed Filey on the 24th with 29 on 25th and 20 on 29th. 23 at Hornsea on 1st whilst at Spurn, three on 18th; five on 24th and two on 25th. 259 off Flamborough in October with 39 on 1st; 16 on 6th; 20 on 7th; 35 on 8th; 25 on 11th; 25 on 18th; 11 on 29th and 19 on 30th. Only one to two at Filey during this period but 99 off Hornsea during the month this peak count of 73 on 11th and small numbers at Spurn with four on 1st and four on 30th. Numbers declined into November with eight at Flamborough on 2nd; ten on 3rd and 30 on 20th whilst at Filey 12 were reported on 18th and four on 20th. One on 5th at Spurn being the only record there this month. 11 at Hornsea on 1st December with one on 2nd; three at Flamborough on 2nd with one on 3rd and 4th; four south at Filey on 19th with one south at Scarborough on 1st.

Along the Humber, at Sunk Island, two west on 24th September before returning eastwards. A juvenile near Stone Creek on 3rd December; one west on 10th and one west there, after arriving from the north, on 26th December. It is considered that the December records concern one bird.

A single juvenile at Eccup Res. on 29th September (VAL).

#### **Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus***

Single birds in April at Hornsea on 21st and Filey on 29th. In May at Flamborough on 2nd; 13th and 15th. A single bird at Spurn on 26th June with 12 on four days at Hornsea, maximum being six on 28th; and 13 on eight days at Flamborough with three on 25th. Almost daily at Flamborough and Spurn from mid July with peak counts of 23 at Flamborough on 29th and at Spurn, 16 on 30th. 3609 recorded at Flamborough on 30 days in August with 138 on 12th; 116 on 15th; 179 on 19th; 542 on 20th; 1056 on 21st (the highest count this century in Yorkshire); 198 on 22nd; 141 on 26th; 252 on 27th and 285 on 29th. On 21st 707 passed Filey (this being by far the highest count at that location); smaller numbers further south on the coast with 132 at Hornsea on 20th and 138 on 21st whilst at Spurn, 150 were counted on 14th with 200 on 20th and 130 on 21st.

1544 at Flamborough during September with 123 on 11th; 328 on 23rd and 140 on 24th; Filey recording 456 between 12th and 14th with 230 on 23rd whilst off Hornsea 215 were seen on 1st. Spurn recorded 170 on 2nd with 120 on 12th; 284 on 23rd and 103 on 24th.

Smaller numbers in October with Flamborough reporting 124 on the 7th and 146 on the 8th though 152 off Hornsea/Cowden on 11th. 33 were Filey on 8th whilst at Spurn 18 passed on 1st with 25 on 8th. Few in November with four at Hornsea on 18th and 20th; four at Flamborough on 6th and 13th.

At Sunk Island, on the Humber, a single bird on 1st May with many records during autumn. 18 flew west there on 13th August; three east and 53 west on 14th; 52 west on 20th; 69 west on 21st, of which 16 were seen to arrive high from the northeast (a pointer to the lack of birds at both Hornsea and Spurn on this date?); 108 west (23 returning east later) on 27th; 32 on 28th; 40 west on 29th. Small numbers west during September with 12 on 10th; five on 1st October; seven on 9th with one on 20th November.

Inland, a single bird at Tophill Low Res. on 21st April (the Hornsea bird?); whilst in V.C. 63, one west at Thrybergh Res. on 9th August; one south at Wath on 21st; two west at Blacktoft on 14th with 37 west, in small parties, on 1st September and two west on 16th. Two southwest at Pugney's on 13th September with one on 30th. Two at Skelmanthorpe on 15th September.

### Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A record year with a total of some 480 birds recorded: 22 at Filey; 352 at Flamborough; one at Bridlington; 95 at Hornsea/Cowden and 16 at Spurn with nine inland at Blackmoorfoot Res..

A single adult reported from Flamborough on 26th June (AMA). In August Filey recorded two adults on the 8th with one on 21st (JH, JS, HJW). At Flamborough, an immature on 2nd; single adults on 14th and 19th; four adults on the 21st; two on 22nd and 23rd with one on 24th. Single juveniles on 26th; 27th; 28th and 29th. (AMA, DGH, JCL, PAL, GAS, DIMW). Hornsea had single adults on the 14th and 19th with three adults, one immature and one juvenile on the 20th plus an adult and immature on 21st (GRB) whilst at Spurn adults were reported on 9th and 27th with two on 26th and an immature on the 31st (BF, JC, KR, MGN).

Small numbers at these locations in September until an influx in the fourth week. Filey recorded an immature on the 12th with adults on the 14th and 18th (JWC, CCT, MGR, PJD, WH) with, at Flamborough, an immature on 3rd; two adults on the 9th; an immature on 11th; single juveniles on 12th; 14th and 15th; an adult and two juveniles on 18th; two adults on the 19th (AMA, AG, DGH, JCL, PAL). At Hornsea/Cowden; two adults and two immatures on 8th; two adults with one immature on 13th and an immature on 14th (GRB, WFC). Spurn having an adult on the 5th (GC) and Bridlington an adult on the 18th (DJB, GWF).

Large numbers appeared on the 23rd with 19 adults, two immatures and 16 juveniles at Flamborough (JCL, PAL); on the 24th, four adults at filey (PJD, JH, FN); 19 adults, four immatures and nine juveniles at Flamborough (AMA, AG, DGH, JCL, PAL) with an adult at Spurn (GJS *et al.*). Nine adults and three juveniles at Flamborough on 25th with three adults and two immatures at Hornsea and an adult at Spurn (DMP *et al.*). Two adults at Flamborough on 26th with an immature at Hornsea. An immature off Filey on 27th (DJS, CCT) then, on the 29th, six adults and two immatures at Filey (NCD, PJD, DJS); 26 adults, 11 immatures and 16 juveniles at Flamborough (JCL, PAL); two adults, Flamborough (JCL, PAL); two adults, five immatures and one juvenile at Hornsea/Cowden (GRB, WFC). 20 adults, one immature and ten juveniles at Flamborough on 30th with five adults, two immatures and seven juveniles at Hornsea (GRB).

Large numbers continued into early October with, on the 1st, 24 adults, one immature and five juveniles at Flamborough (AMA, JCL, PAL); two adults and two immatures at Hornsea (GRB) and at Spurn, four adults and two immatures (DP, JH *et al.*). An adult at Filey on 2nd with nine adults, two immatures and four juveniles at Flamborough (JH, DJS, DGH, JCL, PAL). Two adults and five juveniles at Flamborough on the 6th with two adults and a juvenile there on 7th when a single juvenile was reported from Hornsea. 13 adults and 12 juveniles at Flamborough on 8th with an adult at Spurn; on the 9th, 11 adults and five juveniles at Flamborough with three adults and two juveniles at Hornsea (AMA, JCL, PAL, GRB). Two adults with two juveniles at Flamborough on 10th and on the 11th, nine adults and seven juveniles there (AMA, JCL, PAL) whilst at Hornsea/Cowden, ten adults, three immatures and seven juveniles were reported (GRB, WFC) plus an immature at Spurn (JC). One adult and a juvenile at Hornsea on 12th; a juvenile at Flamborough on 15th with two there and at Hornsea on the 16th. Hornsea had an adult and ten juveniles on the 18th (GRB) with an adult at Filey on 23rd (JS, PMS). At Flamborough; on the 18th, an adult and 21 juveniles; single juveniles on the 19th and 28th; 13 juveniles on 29th with two adults and 14 juveniles on the 30th; five juveniles on the 31st with the last bird, a juvenile, on 3rd November (AMA, GPC, DH, JCL, PAL, MN, PJW).

At Blackmoorfoot Res. in V.C. 63, eight adults with an immature stayed for about 15 minutes on the evening of 23rd September (MLD, JMP) – a record number for an inland location in Yorkshire.

### Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A single bird reported from Flamborough on 21st January otherwise none until May when reported from Flamborough on 3rd; 19th and 20th; from Filey on 10th; Hornsea on 19th and Spurn on 7th – all being single birds. Slightly more widespread in June with four at Flamborough on 25th; seven on 26th and six on 29th whilst five were off Hornsea on

28th. 240 were counted at Flamborough during July with peaks of 31 on 15th; 64 on 16th and 33 on 31st; up to five occasionally at both Filey and Hornsea during this period. 1330 off Flamborough during August with peak counts of 51 on 2nd; 62 on 4th; 51 on 13th; 58 on 15th; 50 on 20th; 266 on 21st (this being the highest daily count for Yorkshire); 170 on 22nd; 48 on 23rd and 91 on 26th. Very few reported from other locations along the coast with the exception of 72 at Filey on 21st otherwise eight at Hornsea on this date and only up to four during the month at Spurn. 490 at Flamborough during September with peaks of 49 on 23rd; 72 on 24th; 68 on 29th and 58 on 30th. Filey produced good numbers during the latter part of this month whilst up to ten were reported from Spurn and nine at Hornsea; five at Scarborough and Staithes during this same period. Less reported from Flamborough in October with a total of 314 during the month; peaks being 53 on 1st; 30 on 7th; 93 on 8th and 62 on 18th. A very high count of 111 off Hornsea on 11th but very few at Spurn. Filey recorded 40 on the 8th whilst during the month one to three were also reported from Scarborough; Staithes and Whitby. Scarce in November with 14 at Flamborough on 20th when 30 were reported off Hornsea with five at Filey on 18th. Three of Hornsea on 1st December and two at Flamborough on 3rd.

Away from the coast, a single bird was reported at Sunk Island on 17th September with one at the confluence of the Ouse/Trent on 1st September. One found dead near Huddersfield on 2nd October. V.C. 64 reported an excellent year with one at Malham Tarn on 12th September; an adult at Fairburn Ings on 29th/30th September with an immature at Spofforth on 9th and 10th October.

#### **Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus***

Reported from the coast as follows: at Spurn on 5th March; 16th September (first year bird) and 21st, an adult. At Easington/Kilnsea, a second winter bird on 25th September and 30th October; Hornsea, an adult from 2nd January to 20th March and probably the same bird from 11th October to the end of the year with another adult from 13th to 18th June and again on 28th; a second winter bird occasionally from 21st February to 3rd March. An adult present during both winters was also reported on many occasions from Hornsea Mere during this same period. Single adults at Filey on 1st January and 2nd April with a second year bird on 23rd April. Flamborough reported single birds on 3rd; 8th; 10th; 18th; 25th September; 29th and 30th October. Two at Scalby Mills on 18th and 19th April (adult and second winter) with an adult in Scarborough on 21st and a first winter bird at Scalby on 28th. Single birds in the Scarborough area on 15th September; 29th November and 20th December.

Along the Humber; an adult at Sunk Island on 13th February with a first summer bird at Saltend on 18th May.

V.C. 63 reported single first winter birds at Wintersett Res. on 16th; 26th; 27th and 29th January; 28th October; at Wath on 18th January; Dalton near Huddersfield on 31st January (adult); an adult at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 4th and 5th January with first winter birds there on 22nd January; 5th February; 23rd October and 14th November. First winter birds at Worsborough Res. on 3rd February and at Pugney's on 1st November. An adult at Damflask Res. first reported on 30th December 1987 remained in the Loxley Valley until 3rd January.

In V.C. 64 an adult was present at Eccup Res. on many days between 1st January and 19th March; an adult there on nine days between 5th November and the end of the year with another bird on 28th December. Single first winter birds recorded on 21st February; 20th March; 12th November; 17th; 27th and 28th December with a juvenile present on 19th August. At Fairburn Ings an adult present on 2nd October and a first winter bird from 23rd October almost daily until the end of the year.

Single first winter birds were recorded in V.C. 65 from Bolton-on-Swale on 27th November and Stapleford Pond on 17th September.

#### **Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan***

A single adult at Fairburn Ings on 17th May constitutes the first record for Yorkshire (CW *et al.*). Still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### **Little Gull *Larus minutus***

Infrequently reported along the coast in the winter months with up to 12 occasionally at Hornsea; four at Whitby on 13th February and one to two at Filey and Scarborough. Light passage during spring with no more than seven birds being reported. 20 on Hornsea beach on 10th June were the first indication of returning birds thereafter numbers slowly built up in that area. Counts in that area as follows with duplication not considered likely; 91 on 21st July; 105 on 22nd; 82 on 27th; 79 on 2nd August; 230 on 12th; 188 on 13th; 144 on 19th; 323 on 21st; 274 on 23rd; 240 on 24th with 180 to 194 during the latter days of the month. The highest count at the Mere being 164 on 12th. On 1st September a total of 417 birds were in the area consisting of 356 south offshore; 20 on coastal fields and 41 at the Mere; 211 on 2nd; 132 on 3rd; 140 on 4th; 178 on 6th; 268 on 8th and 480 on 30th. Numbers then decreased rapidly with 22 on 5th October; 66 on 11th; 19 on 12th with five on 13th. Four on 20th November and two on 2nd December.

Flamborough had small numbers until September when 183 were recorded on the 10th with 65 on 11th; 116 on 15th. In October, 66 on 9th; 223 on 14th with 67 on 15th and 1464 on 30th. Small numbers during November with 16 on the 5th and 19 the following day. Three on 3rd December. Peak counts at Filey were 11 on 23rd August and 28 on 15th September. Small numbers further north on the coast with eight at Scarborough on 21st August; 32 at Staithes on 2nd October; four at Whitby on 27th October and nine north at Staithes on 20th November.

Six flew west at Sunk Island on 17th September whilst further upstream, at Blacktoft, three were present on 17th April with two on 1st September and nine there on 6th. Three at Angler's on 1st September with two there on the 8th otherwise only single birds reported at Treeton Dyke from 14th to 18th February; Pugney's on 21st and 27th April; Blacktoft on 16th and 18th April; Ingbirchworth Res. on 1st May; Wombwell Ings and Pugney's on 11th. Blacktoft on 1st; 9th and 24th June; with two on 14th July. One at Worsborough Res. on 22nd July; Blacktoft on 8th and 23rd October with one at Harthill Res. on 21st.

V.C. 64 reported two at Fairburn Ings on 30th April with four on 1st May; two on 8th with one on 9th/10th and 26th. One at Staveley on 26th April with two on 4th May; one at Farnham on 1st May. In autumn; two at Eccup Res. on 13th August with one there on 18th; one at Fairburn Ings on 20th September; one at Lindley Wood Res. on 15th October; High Batts N.R. on 23rd October and Knotford Nook on 4th December.

### **Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini***

A good year with a first summer bird at Flamborough on 27th May (PAL); adults there on 6th; 13th and 21st August (AMA); 25th (MN, PJW) and 29th August (MN, PJW); 3rd to 5th September (AMA, PAL, MN, PJW); 18th September (AMA, MN, PJW); two on 30th (adult and immature); adult and juvenile on 1st October (AMA, JCL, PAL); adult on 6th October; two adults plus a juvenile on 9th October (AMA, PAL) with an adult on 28th October and two on 30th (PAL). Single adults at Filey on 9th September (REH, DJS) and 29th September (PJD, DJS) whilst at Hornsea an immature on 7th October (GRB); two adults on 11th October (WFC) and two adults plus an immature on 18th November (GRB). Single immature south at Spurn on 9th September (TMC) and an adult on 23rd (DMP).

### **Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***

Reported breeding from many moorland tarns in V.C. 65; Barden Res. with 1000 pairs; Fairburn Ings, 258 pairs; Bishops Moor, 150 pairs; Harper Hill Pond, 45 pairs; Mickletown Ings, 12 pairs with 200 to 300 pairs in three colonies in Wharfedale with an unknown number at Knostrop S.F.. In V.C. 63 bred at Old Denaby, three pairs; Potteric Carr, 60 pairs; attempted at Edderthorpe and Black Moss whilst no count received from Willowgarth. In V.C. 61 no reports received from the Derwent valley.

Large gatherings were reported from many locations with 25,000 at Blacktoft on 23rd September; 10,000 there on 26th July; 13,600 at Broomhead Res. on 18th December with 10,660 there on 2nd January. 11,500 at Bolton-on-Swale on 30th January; 10,000+ at Swinsty Res. on 13th February whilst several large counts were recorded at Eccup Res.

with 17,500 on 7th January; 10,000 on 7th February; 13,000 on 22nd October; 20,000 on 5th November and up to 15,000 during December. 11,600 off Hornsea on 1st September; 10,000 at Sunk Island on 28th/29th August whilst Tophill Low Res. had up to 10,500 in October. Leucistic birds were reported from several locations in V.C. 65 with orange dyed birds reported from Bolton-on-Swale during both winters and from Tophill Low Res. in October.

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis*

A single first summer bird at Flamborough on 13th May (PAL).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Possibly bred on Bishops Moor (near Harrogate) though further details not forthcoming.

Peak counts along the coast were 1000 at Flamborough on 10th January with 900 at Spurn on 9th March. Elsewhere in V.C. 61, 1900 reported from Hornsea Mere on 1st February with 1000 on 8th November and 1200 on 10th December. Tophill Low Res. recorded up to 5500 in January; 3500 during February with 8000 in March; 7500 on 3rd April; 1000 on 9th September; up to 4000 in October and 14,000 on 4th December. Only very small numbers reported from V.C. 62. In V.C. 63, 2000 at Blacktoft on 15th October with 1000 at Wintersett Res. on 26th November otherwise 400 at Wath Ings during January and March with 300 there in October; 300 at Pugney's on 7th February. Numbers at most locations in V.C. 64 were reported as being below those of 1987 though Eccup had good counts during the early months with 6000 on 15th January; 3000 on 7th February; 2000 on 26th March; 2500 on 17th September; 3500 on 22nd October with up to 4000 during November and December. 500 at Bolton-on-Swale, in V.C. 65, the highest count at that location.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

100 pairs bred at Cracoe in V.C. 64.

Numbers in V.C. 61 low with 55 at Spurn on 8th July and 40 at Patrington Haven on 21st October. Even fewer in V.C. 62 with 12 near Fylingdales on 27th May as the highest count. In V.C. 63; 850 at Blacktoft on 15th September with 800 at Wintersett Res. on 11th October; up to 560 at Bolton Slurry Lagoon (near Wath) during autumn with 400 at Monkton Tip on 26th August; 371 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th October; 270 at Wilsic on 4th October and 154 at Redmires Res. on 22nd August. Low counts in V.C. 64 during the early months with 100 at Mickletown Ings on 14th February. 176 east over Fairburn Ings on 23rd May. Slightly larger numbers during autumn with 312 at Eccup Res. on 22nd September and 300 at Chelker Res. during October.

Large counts in V.C. 65 with 1000+ at Bolton-on-Swale on 5th September; 1400 at Masham G.P. on 31st August; 2500 there on 15th September and 2600 on 6th October; 520 at Nosterfield on 13th September.

Small numbers of birds of one of the Scandinavian races *L.f.fuscus* or *L.f.intermedius* were reported from many locations whilst in V.C. 65 about a quarter of the birds at Masham G.P. on 15th September and 6th October were considered to be of Scandinavian origin.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

Bred on the cliffs at Flamborough though no details received. A single pair bred at Barden Res. in V.C. 64.

2500 at Flamborough on 10th January the highest count there whilst at Hornsea Mere 1150 were recorded on 1st February with 1200 there on 10th December; 800 in January at Tophill Low Res. being the maximum count there. Up to 400 were at Scarborough during both winters otherwise only small numbers in this V.C. In V.C. 63, 2328 at Broomhead Res. on 2nd January with 1100 there on 18th December increasing to 1600 on 28th; 1200 at Wintersett Res. on 7th January; 1000 at Shirecliffe Tip on 2nd January; up to 2500 at Blacktoft during September and October with 1800 at Langsett Res. on 30th December. 700 at Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, was the highest number reported from that V.C. with

600+ over Leeds on 22nd January. 1000 at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th January and a similar count there on 3rd and 4th March.

Reports of 'Yellow-legged' Herring Gulls attributable to either *L.a. cachinnans* or *L.a. michahellis* were received from many locations in all five V.C.s; usually single birds but two at Nosterfield on 8th September; two at Masham on 6th April and two at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21st October.

For further details on these races see page 3.

#### **Iceland Gull *Larus glaucopterus***

Well distributed inland though rather scarce along the coast with a single first winter bird at Whitby/Saltwick Nab on 6th; 15th and 21st February. First winter birds at Scarborough on 21st and 23rd March with a second year bird there on 11th April and two adults at Scalby Mills on 18th April. In V.C.61, single birds were reported from Filey on 17th January and 4th December whilst Flamborough reported two on 19th March with one on 9th and 20th February; 2nd and 12th March; 2nd and 4th April; 3rd and 11th December. At Hornsea Mere a first winter bird on 30th/31st January with an adult on 8th and 10th December. This adult was also reported on the coast there on 12th December whilst a second year bird was recorded on 4th/5th March. A single second winter bird at Bransholme on 11th March.

In V.C. 63 at Pugney's a third winter bird was reported on 23rd January; first winter bird on 31st January; in February, a second winter bird on 3rd/4th and 6th with an adult on 24th/25th and 27th and an adult present on 30th and 31st December. Wintersett Res. reported a second winter bird on 26th and 31st January; a first winter bird on 7th and 9th March; second winter on 10th March and an adult on the 3rd and 7th; in November, a first winter bird on 12th. Blackmoorfoot Res. had a first winter bird on 24th January; Wath Ings, a similarly aged bird on 7th and from 10th to 12th March; a first winter bird at Broomhead Res. on 5th March and an unaged bird at Chelker Res. on 20th April. Ardsley Res. reported an adult on 5th; 11th and 13th January; 30th/31st March and 1st April. A pale adult from 11th December to the end of the year (also reported from V.C. 64). A second year bird on 22nd January; third year on 28th February and first year birds on 5th, 13th, 29th/30th January, 1st and 3rd February with another bird on 3rd and 29th March.

A pale adult (possibly the 1986 bird) was reported during both winters from Eccup Res.; Knotford Nook and Esholt S.W. during the period early January to 21st March and at Eccup Res.; Knotford Nook; Lindley Wood Res.; Swinsty Res. and Esholt S.W. from 11th to 31st December. A different adult was at Fairburn Ings on 11th April with first winter birds at Esholt S.W. on 13th March and at Fairburn Ings on 19th/20th January.

#### **Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus***

Recorded along the coast during both winters, mainly single birds though two at Scarborough on 13th February; at Filey on 2nd January; at Flamborough on 3rd, 10th and 17th January; 19th February; 3rd March and 10th December with three there on 26th October. Two at Hornsea on 5th March; at Barmston on 21st October and at Sunk Island on 2nd January. A single adult was at Sunk Island on 20th August whilst the only inland records from V.C. 61 were of single birds at Tophill Low Res. on 9th January; 27th April; 29th April and 1st May.

In V.C. 63, Ardsley Res. reported adults on 13th and 18th January; 27th, 29th and 31st December; a fourth year bird on 6th/7th April; third summer individual on 19th April; a second summer bird on 30th March and first year birds on 17th, 27th and 31st January; 1st February and 7th December. Blackmoorfoot Res. recorded an adult on 15th January with a first winter bird on 5th March; Blacktoft, single first winter birds on 10th January and 12th April; Wath Ings a first winter bird on 26th January, 5th and 29th February; an adult on 15th February and a second/third winter bird on 3rd March. First winter birds at Pugney's on 20th to 22nd and 29th January; 2nd and 14th March with an adult on 20th January. First winter birds at Broomhead Res. on 1st January and 8th March; at Edderthorpe on 1st March and Wintersett Res. on 3rd March whilst at this last location an

adult was recorded on 14th and 15th February with a third winter bird there on 16th March. A second winter individual at Wombwell Ings on 15th February.

In V.C. 64 most records came from Fairburn Ings with a second winter bird on 19th January; first winter from 20th to 24th and 27th January with a second bird present on the 22nd and on eight days in March until the 22nd. Single adults were recorded on 20th and 25th February and 7th April. An adult was at Thruscross Res. on 9th January with single second winter birds at Mickletown Ings on 28th February and at Eccup Res. on 12th March.

A single bird at Nosterfield G.P. on 6th April was the only record from V.C. 65.

#### **Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***

Numbers, generally, this year were lower than recently with no location apart from Hornsea Mere recording more than 1000. Here 1030 were present on 30th November and 1050 on 10th December. Other high counts were 934 as January maximum at Tophill Low Res. with 870 there during December. Jackson's Bay, at Scarborough held up to 750 in January and 600 during December.

In V.C. 63, Blacktoft held 750 on 21st October with 600 on 15th September; 600 at Wath Ings on 2nd March; up to 500 at Monkton Tip during both January and December whilst 400+ were reported from Wintersett Res. during both January and December with a similar number at Wath Ings during February.

In V.C. 64, by far the highest numbers were reported from Fairburn Ings with 800 on 15th January; 800 again on 6th February; 220 during March; 320 in September; 500 on 30th October with up to 470 during November and 420 on 15th December. 200 at Eccup Res. on 1st January with 290 at Ardsley Res. on 21st November and 520 there on 20th December. 600 at Bolton-on-Swale on 1st January being the highest count reported from V.C. 65.

#### **Ross's Gull *Rhodostethia rosea***

A single adult flew south at Flamborough on 30th October (JCL, PAL). Still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

#### **Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla***

No count of the Bempton colony received this year though fledging at sample areas was reported as being approximately one third of that in 1987. As usual high numbers were reported passing Flamborough with 5600 on 1st April; 16,000 the following day and 26,500 on 9th. 40,800 on 13th May; 32,900 on 5th June; 103,400 on 15th July with 100,900 on 16th; 67,000 on 24th. 36,000 on 2nd August; 51,700 on 4th with 26,500 on 7th and 77,500 on 21st. Few large movements after this date with 3500 on 3rd September and 3600 on 20th November. Similar, but smaller counts were reported from other coastal locations with 12,000 off Filey on 8th May and 4872 per hour passing there on 16th August. Hornsea had 5614 north on 15th July with 1086 north on 20th November. Up to 2000 reported at Spurn during the period 5th to 14th August with 1000 there on 29th. At Sunk Island, on the Humber, six flew west on 23rd January with seven west on 27th March. Very large numbers were present there in early autumn with 540 on 13th August; c1600 on 14th; 1500 on 21st; 440 on 27th; 500 on 29th. Smaller numbers reported during September with 70 on the 3rd; 71 on 11th and 34 on 24th but c250 on 8th October with c350 the following day and 68 west on 20th November.

Inland, in V.C. 63, 11 were recorded at Wintersett Res. on 28th February with 70 flying northwest at Pugney's in five parties on 28th. 21 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 12th March when 92 adults were reported from Howden Res. The following day, ten flew west at Pugney's with no doubt the same ten being reported from Wintersett Res.; 36 at Wath Ings with 12 at Worsbrough Res, three at Thrybergh Res, eight at Broadstones Res. and two at Digley Res. 29 west at Blacktoft on 29th March.

A good spring passage through V.C. 64, mostly involving one to three birds but 18 at Fairburn Ings on 7th March and 41 at Thruscross Res. on 16th.

A single pair bred on a public house in Scarborough successfully rearing young.

**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*

A single bird at Flamborough on 27th May (PAL) is still under consideration by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

Single birds at Bubwith on 3rd May (IG); at Thrybergh Res. on 29th July (WD *et al*) being seen later the same day at the Rother Valley Country Park (AM, PMW); at Spurn on 2nd September, flying south offshore (IC, MGN, BRS *et al*).

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Recorded in March from Flamborough and Staithes on the 26th; Spurn on the 28th; Filey and Spurn on 30th and Long Nab on 31st. Spring passage was light with maxima of 18 at both Filey and Flamborough during April and 28 at Flamborough on 27th May whilst Filey reported a peak of 27 during this month. More numerous in July with up to 100 off Filey; 186 at Flamborough on 16th; 360 on the 17th and 189 on 23rd; 90 at Hornsea on 29th whilst at Spurn 170 were recorded on the 29th with 200 on 31st. The main passage occurred during August with peaks of 550 off Staithes on 29th; 775 at Filey on 20th; 607 at Flamborough on the same day with 1345 on 21st and 1559 on 27th. Hornsea recording 1226 south on 19th; 1097 south on 20th; 837 on 21st; 624 on 27th and 660 south on 29th whilst at Spurn up to 900 were present during the first half of this month but 1000 counted on 6th; 1500 on 12th and 3000 on 14th thereafter 1000 to 3000 on several days until the end of the month. Less during September with 500 at Filey on 1st; 387 at Flamborough on 2nd; 193 on 11th and 198 on 14th; 665 south at Hornsea on 2nd; 1300 south at Spurn also on 2nd and 1150 there on 8th. Small numbers at most coastal locations during October with the last being at Filey on the 29th and Flamborough on 31st.

Large counts were recorded from Sunk Island during mid August with 562 on 13th; 320 on 14th and 214 on 21st.

Small numbers mainly one to two birds reported inland from 12 locations between 19th April (two at Fairburn) and 12th October (two at Blacktoft) though four were recorded at Fairburn on 25th May; three at Blacktoft on 14th August and five southwest at Wintersett Res. on 22nd.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

A good year with many records from Flamborough where two adults were present on 6th July (PAL), an adult on 9th July (MN, PJW), single adults on 13th; 15th and 20th July (JCL, PAL), 31st July (BR *et al*); on 2nd and 3rd August (PAL); two on 4th (AMA); one on 5th; two on 10th and one on 15th (JCL, PAL). A juvenile on 16th (PAL) with further single adults on 21st and 26th (PAL, DIMW). An adult on 27th August (MN, PJW) and finally one on 29th September (PAL). At Hornsea adults were reported on 14th; 15th and 24th July; 12th and 15th August with immatures on 20th and 27th August (GRB) whilst at Easington an adult was reported on 31st July (DW). Three were reported at Spurn on 15th July with single birds south there on 19th August and 4th September.

In V.C. 62, single birds were recorded at Scalby Mills on 9th August (DBy) and at Staithes on 29th (MJH).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Bred at Blaxton Settling Ponds with one pair rearing two young; at Fairburn Ings, three pairs with seven young; at Swillington Ings, two pairs and five young; at Hay-a-Park with one pair and two young and in the Wharfe valley where one pair raised two young. One pair nested at Pugney's but were unsuccessful.

The first bird of the year was reported from the Rother Valley C.P. on 12th April with one at Booth Wood Res. the following day; one at Wombwell Ings on 15th and two at Fairburn Ings on 16th. The first to be recorded along the coast was at Flamborough on the 24th by which time many inland locations had recorded one to three birds. Higher counts inland being 13 at Wath Ings on 12th May with 11 at Fairburn Ings on 12th and 25 at Pugney's on 29th. Numbers were low until August when 440 were recorded at Flamborough

on 14th with 354 on 21st; 510 on 22nd and 344 on 26th. Further south at Hornsea 1087 were recorded on 14th with 740 on the 20th and 620 on 21st. Heavy passage was reported from Flamborough during the first week of September with 930 on 3rd; 1705 on 4th and 649 on the 5th; Hornsea reported 2031 on 2nd. At Spurn, however most birds were not specifically identified and were reported as 'commics'; 2000+ such birds being reported on 14th August with c2700 on 19th; 4500 on 2nd September; 1350 on 3rd and 1650 on the 8th. Filey likewise had 1500 'commics' on 1st September. Unidentified terns were also reported along the Humber from Sunk Island with 49 passing east on 30th April and 53 east the following day; in autumn 195 on 13th August was the peak count. Further inland, at Blacktoft 15 Common Terns were recorded flying west on 9th August; 28th August and 1st September whilst 21 were recorded at Pugney's on 25th August with ten there on 29th September whilst 18 were at Wintersett Res. on 13th August.

The last of the year were two at Spurn on 21st October.

#### **Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea***

Earliest report was of four at Scout Dyke Res. on 16th April with one at Blacktoft on 18th and three at Filey on 19th thereafter quite widespread with 11 off Hornsea on 24th when 49 passed offshore at Spurn. Coastal passage was light until mid July when 250 were reported from Flamborough on 15th with 131 the following day; in August 168 were counted there on the 14th. Hornsea had 42 on 14th August with 48 on 16th and 45 on 2nd September. Away from the coast 18 were at Tophill Low Res. on 1st May with 29 at Fairburn Ings on 27th April; 23 there on 30th and 21 on 1st May. c40 flew over Whinmoor, Leeds, on 30th April on which date seven were reported from Bolton-on-Swale.

A single bird at Worsbrough Res. on 19th October was the last reported inland with one at Flamborough on 31st October and 13th November.

#### **Little Tern *Sterna albifrons***

Bred unsuccessfully at Spurn Point with three pairs laying eight eggs; two chicks died probably owing to heavy rain; four probably killed by a very high tide; one taken by a fox and the eighth egg did not hatch. No breeding at Kilnsea/Easington.

The first reported were single birds at Pugney's, Wintersett Res. and Fairburn Ings on 17th April; (no doubt the same bird). The first on the coast was at Spurn on 24th with another on 29th thence up to nine during May but 12 there on 11th; 15 on 17th and 12 on the 21st. Similar numbers throughout June with 13 on 1st; 11 on 2nd and 17 on the 25th. Up to 22 during the first half of July with slightly higher counts during the latter half with 104 at the point on 21st and between 40 and 60 birds there from 25th to 27th after which less than ten were present with the last bird being seen on 29th August. Elsewhere, seven were at Easington on 9th May otherwise one to two birds were reported from Sunk Island; Barmston; Filey; Hornsea; Flamborough; Speeton and Staithes with three at Flamborough on 31st July; three at Hornsea on 20th July; three at Easington on 30th April and five off Bridlington on 1st June.

Inland, two at Fairburn Ings on 21st July with one there on 1st; two at Blacktoft on 20th May; one at Eccup Res. on 21st June.

Last birds were singles at Speeton on 23rd and at Filey on 23rd and 24th October.

*Addition to the 1987 Report; one at Southfield Res. on 22nd June.*

#### **Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***

The first bird reported was at Tophill Low Res. on 18th April after which two were at Pugney's on 22nd and four at Thrybergh Res. on 30th when a single bird was also reported from both Fairburn Ings and Hornsea Mere. The main passage occurred in early May with peak count being reported on the 7th with 13 flying east at Spurn; 26 at Fairburn Ings; 12 or 13 at the Rother valley C.P. and ten at Worsbrough Res.; on the following day, 14 flew east at Blacktoft with seven at Farnham and five at Chelker Res.. One to three birds were recorded from several locations during this month with five at Bolton-on-Swale on 23rd and six at Pugney's on the 16th.

Numbers in autumn were generally lower excepting along the coast where Flamborough reported ten on 21st August and 19 on 4th September. Spurn Point reporting up to six during the latter half of August with a total of 75 south during early September, peak counts being, 17 on 2nd; 13 on 3rd and 44 on the 8th. Four at Hornsea on 20th August with five the following day and six at Filey on 3rd September.

Inland, nine at Wintersett Res. on 8th September; seven at Blackmoorfoot Res. also on the 8th when seven were recorded at Fairburn Ings. Other locations reporting one to four birds with the last being at Edderthorpe on 26th September.

#### **White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***

A good year with single birds at Fairburn Ings on 8th September (IA *et al*); at Spurn Point on the 9th (PJI, DB, SPW, IG *et al*) and at Flamborough on 11th (AMA, JCL). All three were juveniles.

All are still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Guillemot *Uria aalge***

No comments on breeding numbers received from Bempton/Flamborough. Birds definitely reported as this species from Flamborough were 25,500 on 20th February; 7400 on 9th April; 13,200 on 29th May; 16,400 on 4th June with 19,730 on 9th June. Very small numbers being specifically identified elsewhere along the coast. A single bird was reported on the River Trent at Blacktoft on 8th October.

Unidentified *auks* were reported from the coast particularly in the vicinity of Flamborough and Filey with counts of 26,600 on 10th June; 29,750 on 11th; 21,000 on 26th; 22,830 on 29th June; 48,100 on 15th and 26,800 on 16th July, all at Flamborough with 6000 per hour passing Filey on 8th May. Smaller counts at Whitby; Staithes, Scarborough; Hornsea and Spurn.

#### **Razorbill *Alca torda***

No comment on status received from Flamborough/Bempton.

2100 off Flamborough on 20th February with 12,000 on 9th April; 8400 on 29th May; 2800 on 4th June with 5580 on 9th and 120 on 15th September. Few specific counts received from other locations. One flew west at Sunk Island on 20th October.

#### **Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle***

Single birds were reported from Filey on 2nd March (PJD) and between 31st October and 3rd November (PJD *et al*) with one at Spurn on 30th October – this being only the third record for the Observatory.

#### **Little Auk *Alle alle***

Very few during the early months with ten at Spurn on 6th March and eight south at Staithes on 16th February. Spurn recorded one south on 15th June.

The first of the autumn was reported from Hornsea on 2nd September with the first large passage occurring on 29th October with 108 at Flamborough followed by 507 on 30th when 33 were reported from Filey and 167 off Spurn. On 19th November 733 passed Flamborough with 72 off Hornsea and 21 at Spurn; 211 at Hornsea on 20th with 530 at Flamborough; 28 at Scarborough and 60 off Staithes. 28 north at Scarborough on 21st when 98 passed Flamborough. The peak movement of the year occurred on 2nd December with almost all birds flying south when 1162 were off Scarborough; 1500+ at Filey; 1710 at Flamborough and 167 at Spurn. 200 at Filey on 3rd with 403 at Flamborough and 73 at the latter location on 4th.

Away from the coast; 14 west at Sunk Island on 30th October with three or four at Tophill Low Res. that day (the first record for this location); one at Midhope Res. on 31st being found dead there on 2nd November. At Sunk Island further birds were reported on 20th November; four west on 26th with three west on 27th and one west on 11th December. Two at Fairburn Ings on 20th November with one (possibly one of those birds) on 21st.

One dead at Wath Ings on 6th January.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

No comments on the breeding status received from Bempton. As usual the highest counts came from Flamborough with 940 recorded on 6th February; small counts during March thence increasing in April with a maximum of 1360 on 30th; 4920 on 26th May being the highest count in that month with high counts from late June to early August. 37,800 on 28th June being the highest daily total for Yorkshire, with other large counts of 11,440 on 9th July; 31,980 on 15th; 15,130 on 16th; 14,750 on 29th and 24,300 on 30th. A rapid decline in numbers during the early days of August with 14,330 on 1st; 10,800 on 2nd; 7800 on 3rd and 2010 on 9th thereafter very few. 122 off Staithes on 16th February with smaller counts also at Hornsea where maxima were 114 on 11th June and 85 on 28th. Very few specifically identified at Filey with 21 as the maximum there. Two south at Hornsea on 3rd December when usually scarce.

One flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 11th September whilst at Blacktoft one was found on the shore of the River Ouse on 29th October flying strongly to the east when released on the Humber.

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

Feral birds with the characteristics of this species were reported in large numbers from Flamborough and Bempton. 420 at Filey in February with 1400 on Cayton Carrs on 26th January.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Small numbers in V.C. 61 with 78 at Tophill Low Res. on 29th December and 33 at Cherry Cobb on 2nd January. In V.C. 63, Wath Ings recorded maxima of 230 on 3rd January and 200 on 8th October whilst 346 flew south here on five days in September. Elsewhere in this V.C. 155 at Edderthorpe was the highest count with Catcliffe Flash reporting 101 on 8th October; 83 on 9th February and 70 on 23rd September. Widely but thinly distributed in V.C. 64 with 84 at High Batts N.R. on 25th November; 110 at Knotford Nook on 3rd February; 64 at Eccup on 31st December with 50+ at Timble Ings and Denton during both winter periods.

**Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Many large flocks reported during the winter months with up to 10,000 roosting at Hornsea Mere in January and 20,000 there during December. Elsewhere in the early months 5000 were recorded east of Doncaster at Candy Farm with 2700 flying south east at Tickhill on 17th January; 2500 at Hetchell Woods on 22nd January; 2000 at Swillington Ings on 21st February and 2000 at Wilsic on the 8th. Up to 4000 occasionally at Wintersett during January with 2000 at Wentworth in the following month. During the latter months of the year 5700 flew south at Fairburn Ings on 28th October with 1500 the next day when 4929 flew south or southwest over Redmires Res. 4000 at East Rigton on 11th November with 3000 at Nostell during December.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

In V.C. 64 increasing in the Settle area whilst in Leeds appears to be forming into smaller, more widespread, parties rather than a few large ones as in the past. Maxima in this V.C. being 103 at Lotherton Hall on 28th February with 75 at Fairburn Ings in January. Apparently still spreading in V.C. 63 though still absent from most upland areas. Maxima reported being 250 at Cudworth on 5th January; 77 at Wombwell Ings on 29th November and 74 at Harthill Res. on 16th November. 136 at Brompton-on-Swale on 31st December.

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

One wintered at Osgodby (near Scarborough) with Collared Doves (WAC).

The first arrival was singing at High Batts N.R. on 4th April (being the 3rd earliest ever reported from Yorkshire); the next reported were all on 23rd April from Wombwell Ings; Tickhill and Brocadale. Spring passage reported as light from all locations with 18 at Spurn

on 31st May and 12 at Blacktoft on the 30th as maxima recorded. Autumn passage likewise was light excepting at Wath Ings where a total of 140 passed through during this period. The last of the year were six flying east at Sunk Island on 8th October.

#### **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

The first of the year, six at Cudworth on 15th April with one each at Grimston and Staveley on the same day. Well distributed by 25th April. Status is apparently unchanged. Last were single birds at Cudworth on 6th September and Tophill Low Res. on 7th.

#### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Quite widespread in the eastern part of V.C. 61 with breeding status apparently unchanged. Bred at six locations in the Barnsley area with four birds being released there through a local scheme. Well distributed around Blacktoft but only singles near Huddersfield and Halifax. Only two confirmed breeding reports from V.C. 64 with only possible breeding at one in V.C. 65.

A bird of the dark-breasted race *T.a.guttata* was seen to fly in off the sea at Flamborough on 14th November (JCL, PAL).

#### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Thinly distributed in V.C. 61 with breeding status unchanged, a similar situation in V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 quite well distributed in the western part; under recorded in some areas and definitely decreased drastically around Blacktoft with only one sighting during the whole year. No changes in status in either V.C. 64 or V.C. 65.

#### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Widespread and locally common – 15 birds counted in two miles near Hawnby at 0500 on 24th September. One found dead at Malham Tarn Woods on 7th November had been ringed there on 25th May 1967 as a first year bird (thus 22 years old). A remarkable age considering the severity of the winters at that location.

#### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

Breeding was confirmed at Burstwick G.P. (SJM) and Skipwith Common (SML) in V.C. 61; at Rievaulx in V.C. 62 (JP); Wintersett with two pairs, Idle valley (three pairs), Blaxton (one pair) and an unnamed moorland location with one pair in V.C. 63 whilst in V.C. 64 bred at two unnamed locations. Small numbers reported along the coast in autumn with eight at Spurn on 28th October as the highest number recorded; inland one to four birds at several locations with ten at Thorpe Marsh in November but only one during December whilst nearby Denaby Ings had one on 16th November with ten on 31st December. One at Fairburn Ings on 3rd June was an unusual date for that site.

#### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Four had taken up residence at Flamborough by 18th August with five present there on 28th; four at Filey during late January with four also at Cowden on 14th October; four at Tophill Low Res. on 23rd October; four at Broomfleet on 17th December with eight at Spurn on 28th October. Many other locations along the coast and estuary reporting one to three birds during both winters. A similar situation along the coast of V.C. 62. Inland, at Clifton Airfield, five present on several days in January but nine on 31st thence five again on 14th February decreasing to one by late March. None present during the latter months at this location due to human disturbance. Only one definite breeding record from V.C. 63 though birds were present during the summer at several other likely locations. Small numbers during both winters in this V.C. with four at Blacktoft on both 10th January and 7th March.

In V.C. 64, considered to have been a poor year in the Settle area; breeding was, however, confirmed at Heyshaw Moor; Dallowgill Moor and Angram with probable

breeding at several other locations. Up to nine roosted at Knostrop S.F. during January and February with three to seven there during March.

An excellent breeding season in V.C. 65 with successful broods of up to four at many moorland locations; at least five pairs breeding on the Feldon/Hurst Moor area.

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Breeding occurred or probably occurred at Dalby Forest; Skipwith Common; Hatfield Moor; Wharncliffe and unnamed locations near Barnsley and Sheffield with some 30 males being recorded.

**Swift** *Apus apus*

The first of the year was recorded on 22nd April from Adel, Leeds with birds being recorded on 23rd from Bolton-on-Swale; Filey; Knotford Nook; Pugney's and Wintersett with many locations reporting birds by the end of the month.

1400 were recorded from Hornsea Mere on 7th May with 4200 there on 17th when a further 1600 passed north along the coast at Hornsea; 2500 at Fairburn Ings on 9th May with 1000 on 29th and 1700 on 9th June; 1000 at Esholt S.F. on 8th May.

Good numbers reported along the coast during the latter days of July with 2830 at Flamborough on 29th; 3340 on 30th and 1430 on 31st whilst at Hornsea Mere 2000 were counted on 23rd; 2300 on 24th; 4300 on 25th and 2200 on 28th. 2000 at Spurn on 25th being the peak there. Smaller counts recorded inland with 1500 at Fairburn Ings on 14th August as the highest. In October reported from Spurn on the 5th; Filey on 6th; Atwick, two south on 9th and Spurn with two on the 27th.

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

A single bird seen at Kilnsea on 20th March (TI, TB) was also reported from Spurn Point on the same day (DMP, BRS *et al*). One at Bempton on 31st May (MJ and JPD).

*Addition* to the 1985 Report: single flew northeast from near Picton (V.C. 62) into Cleveland.

**Mottled Swift** *Apus aequatorialis*

A single bird at Spurn Point on 23rd October was also recorded there between the 25th and 27th. The first record for Yorkshire and Britain. (SW, IC, DB, BRS).

This record is still under consideration by the various Records Committees.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

A single bird at Flamborough from 11th to 22nd July (JCL, PAL, GAS *et al*). The first record for Yorkshire.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Thinly distributed as a breeding species in V.C. 61 and V.C. 62. In V.C. 63 a healthy breeding situation in the Barnsley area with up to 15 pairs; up to ten pairs in the Huddersfield area; smaller numbers around Doncaster; Bradford and Halifax with birds present throughout the year at several other locations. Considered to be still increasing in some areas of V.C. 64 where birds were present at new locations in the Harrogate area and one pair near Settle. Successful breeding recorded on many sites along the Swale; Ure and Tees in V.C. 65 with a bird seen at Kexwith on Hurst Moor, reported as the 'highest and most unlikely location this species has been seen' by the observer.

**Bee-Eater** *Merops apiaster*

Single birds reported from Spurn on 31st May (MGN, IC, PM); on 13th June (TMC) and 18th August (DAB, PB, BRS *et al*). Singles at Bempton on 10th June (RWW) and at Flamborough between 17th and 19th August (AMA, PAL).

The Bempton bird is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

A single bird reported on four days between 2nd and 12th November in the Middlebrook area of Bradford.

*Addition* to the 1985 Report: a single bird at Shroggs Park, Halifax on 12th May (DJ and JS).

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

One at Mulgrave near Staithes on 1st September when two were at Flamborough, these latter being present until the 3rd. Three at Cowden on 9th September, when one was reported from Spurn with another there on 15th; 16th; 19th and 22nd October.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Probably bred at Burnby Moor; Nunburnholme and Londesbrough Park, in V.C. 61 where still quite local, particularly in the east though one present at Hornsea Mere from early January to 10th March. Breeds along the valleys of the North York Moors of V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 generally a fairly healthy situation with no change in status; in V.C. 64 considered to be on the increase and also extending its range with breeding confirmed at six locations in the Leeds area, one or two near Settle; several near Harrogate; at Shipley Glen and near Fairburn. In V.C. 65 widely distributed and undoubtedly breeds in many locations contrary to the misleading statement of the 1987 Report.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

No change in status reported with this species being widespread and common in suitable habitat. One caught at Spurn on 14th September was considered to be of continental origin from measurements.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce in the eastern part of the county with single birds seen at Hornsea Mere (female) on 21st April and a male on several occasions towards the end of the year. Possibly bred at Nunburnholme in V.C. 61, whilst in V.C. 62 pairs were present at Romanby and Hutton Rudby. Probable or confirmed breeding at nine locations in V.C. 63 with birds reported from a further 25 locations outside the breeding season. In V.C. 64, considered to be a slight increase with proven breeding at three locations and probable breeding at a further four. Recorded at some 29 locations during the year. In V.C. 65 recorded from several locations though thought to be under reported.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

One at Spurn on 17th and 18th October with two there on 22nd and one on 27th. One northeast at Sunk Island on 22nd October (JW).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Breeding status apparently unchanged. Few flocks of note during the early months with 200 at Catfoss on 1st March and 102 at Wath Ings on 10th April. Similarly, only small flocks reported during the latter months with 200 near Staincross on 27th November as the only one of note. Light coastal passage reported in October with 210 at Flamborough on 20th; 832 at Spurn on 22nd when 256 flew east at Sunk Island with 413 east there on 23rd. Inland on 22nd 300 were reported at Redmires Res. and 150 at Fairburn Ings with 225 at the latter on 10th. 200 passed over East Rигton on 17th September.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Nine south at Hornsea on 11th October with two at Kilnsea on 10th December. Three at Sunk Island on 23rd January with three near Stone Creek on 14th February. Single birds recorded at Flamborough on 14th and 20th October; Filey on 18th May; Hornsea on 14th February; Easington/Kilnsea on 16th January; 19th, 26th and 27th March; 2nd, 6th, 16th, 17th, 24th April and 1st May. Four at Staithes on 17th April. Finally, a single bird at Spurn on 22nd October.

### **Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***

The first of the year were two at Thrybergh Res. on 15th March followed by 12 at Skipton S.W. on the 17th with two at Wath Ings on 20th and one at Bolton-on-Swale on 21st; Hornsea Mere; Fairburn Ings; Denaby Ings; Catcliffe Flash; Edderthorpe; Blacktoft; Wintersett; Pugney's and Knostrop all reporting birds before the end of March. Good numbers reported during spring with 1100 at Blacktoft on 20th April; 1120 at Tophill Low Res. on 30th April; 1120 at Hornsea Mere on 17th May with 960 there between the 20th and 23rd. 900 at Tophill Low Res. on 17th May and 1500 at Bolton-on-Swale on 4th June.

Reported to have had a good breeding season with c650 pairs along the clay cliffs of Holderness between Hornsea and Bridlington and between Ilkley and Otley the colonies were thought to be on par with or slightly above the numbers of 1982. Autumn roosts/flocks reported being 4000 at Blacktoft on 31st July; 11,500 there on 8th August with 1200 at Tophill Low Res. on 2nd September and 1000 at Fairburn Ings on 8th. Coastal passage light with 600 south at Spurn on 31st July and 346 south there on 15th August. The last reported were two flying east at Sunk Island on 29th October.

### **Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

Single birds at Pugney's on 23rd March; Long Nab on 24th; Edderthorpe Flash on 29th and Spurn on 31st with Fairburn Ings; Nosterfield; Potteric Carr; Wath Ings all reporting birds on 1st April. Few large counts during spring with 2600 at Hornsea Mere on 17th May as the highest.

Coastal passage average with 2250 south at Spurn on 15th August and 5000 south there on 3rd September when 800 passed Flamborough with 1150 the following day.

Large roosts reported were 30,000 at Staveley on 21st and 31st August with 40,000 there on 6th September; 30,000 at Worsbrough Res. on 24th August; 10,000 at Wombwell Ings on 26th September with 8000 at Blacktoft on 21st and 5000 at Fairburn Ings on 8th September. 1000 still present at Swillington Ings on 29th September. In November birds were reported from Penistone on 3rd; Spurn and Tophill Low Res. on 12th; Spurn on the 13th and finally at Pickering on the 19th.

### **Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica***

Single birds reported from Flamborough on 4th May (PAL); Spurn on 22nd May (JED) and 31st May (MGN, PS, IC). The bird on 22nd at Spurn being rejected by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

### **House Martin *Delichon urbica***

Two at Hawkswick (in Littondale) on 30th March with one at Broomhill Flash on 1st April; one there the following day when another was at Blacktoft; 25 at Fairburn on 4th with a single at Knotford Nook. The main arrival occurred in early May with peak spring counts of 760 at Hornsea Mere on 7th; 250 at Fairburn on 9th with coastal passage reported from Flamborough in the latter part of the month where 500 were recorded on 24th; 450 on 25th and 800 on 27th.

Most areas reported a very successful breeding season with large flocks in autumn, the highest being 2000 at Wothersome on 26th September; 420 at Hornsea Mere on 2nd September with 800 at Tophill Low Res. on the same date. 800 at Bessacarr on 31st August with 1342 passing south at Thrybergh Res. on 25th September and 581 southwest at Redmires Res. on 22nd August. Along the coast 780 passed Flamborough on 4th September with 600 south at Spurn on 10th whilst on 6th October 120 flew south at Flamborough and 344 at Spurn.

The last birds were singles at Spurn and Hornsea on 13th November; two at Filey on 16th and two at Fairweather Green, Bradford on 17th.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Single birds reported at Flamborough from 22nd to 24th September (PAL, DGH), on 1st October and another from 20th to 22nd (AMA, AG, PAL, JCL, DIMW). One at Easington on 19th October (SML, MCH) with single birds at Spurn on 20th September (JC, BRS *et al*), 22nd September (PS, BRS, TR *et al*), 4th October (JC) with what was probably the same bird again on 5th (PL, RH, BRS), on 16th October (BRS *et al*) with the last on 24th and 25th (MGN, BRS *et al*).

**Olive-backed Pipit** *Anthus hodgsoni*

A single bird at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on 20th and 21st October (WEO *et al*) with another at Flamborough on 24th October (MN, PJW, JMP, PAL).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

One at Golden Acre Park on 6th April; Filey on 8th; Redmires Res. and Clayton West on 11th and Tophill Low Res. on 12th. By late April well distributed. Breeding status appears unchanged with generally a good season though occasional locations reported a poor year. Passage along the coast very light with eight at Flamborough on 8th and 14th May as maxima. 144 were reported flying west or southwest over Redmires Res. during August and September with 25 on 17th August as the best day. A few birds remained into October with singles at Spurn on 16th; Redmires Res. on 18th and Flamborough on 19th; 21st and 23rd.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Only small flocks reported during the early months and not until spring passage were counts of over 100 reported. Coastal passage being light with 160 north at Hornsea on 26th March and 130 at Flamborough on 20th April whilst on 17th April at Staithes 200 were counted in two hours. Flocks of 200 at Woodhouse Mill, Sheffield on 26th March and 280 on Broomhead Moor on 9th April being the largest reported.

Autumn passage on the coast was average with 2100 counted at Flamborough on 15th September and 1330 on 18th whilst Spurn had 2600 on 10th September and 987 on 8th October. At Redmires Res. 24,667 were recorded flying south or west between September and November with peaks counts of 4695 on 27th September and 5217 on 29th. Elsewhere 605 flew southwest at Mousden on 25th September with 197 south at Blackmoorfoot Res. and 1500 over Wath Ings on the same day. 668 flew west along the Humber at Sunk Island on 10th September with 500 west there on 18th. An albino was seen and photographed at Filey in October.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

A single bird at Kilnsea on 1st June (GC, DP, JG) was accepted by the YNU but rejected by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Bred as usual along the coast north of Bridlington with no apparent change in status. 13 were at Saltwick Nab on 15th February with 25+ there on 16th April and 22 on 20th November. South of Bridlington one to five birds were reported from many locations during both winters. Light coastal passage noted with 30 south at Spurn on 22nd October as the maximum reported. Along the Humber at Sunk Island up to four were recorded regularly with six on 17th January and 21st February whilst seven were present on 12th March. Eight there on 6th November with up to seven on many other days during the latter months. Inland, birds were reported from many locations with five west at Wath Ings on 4th October; six west at Redmires Res. on 12th October and five west there on 22nd.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.p.littoralis* were reported from Filey; Flamborough, on many days, with 13 on 17th March and seven on 16th; four at Hornsea Mere on 26th March with four on the beach there on 4th April. Single birds at eight other locations south of Hornsea plus one at Paull on 17th January.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinosus*

Single birds were in the Ribble valley from 1st January until 1st March (BS); at Pugney's from 4th to 6th April (DP, PS) and at Blacktoft from 1st January to 3rd April and another from 15th October to the end of the year (AG *et al*).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Two at Staixton on 27th March were the earliest of the year with one at Wath Ings on 29th. Good spring passage reported from Flamborough with 66 on 20th and 69 on 26th whilst 71 were present at Bolton-on-Swale on 30th. 71 were counted flying off to roost near Wombwell Ings on 26th April.

In V.C. 63, generally a healthy breeding picture with more records away from the lowland areas mostly frequented by this species whilst in V.C. 64 several local societies remarked on the scarcity of this species during this period. Normal autumn passage with 110 at Angler's on 10th August; 60 at Wath Ings on several days; 60 at Blacktoft on 28th August and a similar count along Driffield Canal on 21st. 100 flew south at Spurn on 15th August with 95 south there on 4th September; 54 passed Sunk Island on 13th August. The last reported being three south at Spurn on 5th October.

Birds of the nominate race *M.f.flava* were recorded as follows; at Filey on 17th April; at Flamborough with two on 20th April; three on 24th; one on 25th/26th; three on 27th; a total of 32 during May with four on the 9th; eight on the 10th; four on 11th and, in autumn, four on 8th September. At Hornsea Mere a female of one of the breeding pairs showed the characteristics of this race whilst males were reported there on 24th and 27th April; 1st, 6th, 13th, 17th and 18th May. At Tophill Low Res. single birds were present on 23rd/24th and 30th April; 5th/6th May. Singles at Spurn on 30th April, 10th and 12th May. Few reported away from the eastern part of V.C. 61 with a single male at Glesby G.P. (V.C. 65) on 1st May; single male at Wombwell Ings on 17th and 22nd April and at Tudworth on 3rd July.

Birds showing the characteristics of other races were reported as follows: *M.f.thunbergi* (grey-headed) at Filey on 14th May (PMS, AW *et al*); one at Flamborough from 8th to 11th May (AMA, JCL, PAL, GAS); two on 13th May (AMA, DGH, PAL, JCL) with an immature on 8th September (PAL, SR). One at Spurn on 12th May (BRS *et al*).

One with the characteristics of *M.f. beema* (Sykes's) recorded at Hornsea Mere on 1st May (GRB).

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Bred in V.C. 61 at Tophill Low Res., for the first time ever, and at the usual locations in the northwest of the V.C.. In V.C. 63 appears to be undergoing an expansion in range in the Barnsley area with breeding occurring at several lowland locations. Elsewhere in this V.C. status appears to be unchanged with a similar situation prevailing in both V.C. 64 and 65.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Winter roosts reported were 300 on 22nd January in Pontefract Park; c100 at Barnsley Central Library; 120 at Huddersfield Civic Centre on 11th February; 300 on 26th January in Leeds City Centre with 275 on 31st January and 265 on 7th February. In the latter months 180 at Huddersfield on 10th October; 400 at Potteric Carr on 9th October and up to 200 in Sheffield City Centre during October.

Coastal passage was light though Flamborough reported 52 on 20th March with 164 on 31st July and 120 on 1st and 2nd August. Inland, 238 flew west at Redmires Res. on 25th September with 104 west there on 30th.

Birds of the nominate race *M.a. alba* were reported from many locations, usually one to seven birds but 18 at Bolton-on-Swale on 21st April and 22 there on 22nd. 18 at Wombwell Ings on 18th April whilst at Nosterfield 15 were present on both 18th and 22nd April with 11 on 20th and 23rd.

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

None reported during the early months with the first of an influx in autumn reported on 24th October when seven were at Kirby Moorside and one at Spurn. From the end of October birds were widespread in all Vice-Counties though fewer in V.C. 65 with some forty locations reporting one to five birds and larger parties at Filey with 20 on 29th October; Hornsea Mere where 16 were counted on 14th November and 12 on 15th; 15 at Bridlington on 27th November; 11 flying west at Sunk Island on 30th October and 10 at Spurn on 29th.

19 were in Scarborough on 30th November with ten in Pickering on 12th December. 11 flew west at Bretton Park on 3rd December with 14 at Cowcliffe, Huddersfield on 9th December; 40 at Upper Greetland on 13th and 14th December.

In V.C. 64; 24 were in the Studley area on 25th November with 24 at Fairburn Ings on 10th December whilst 27 in West Park, Leeds on 27th November had increased to 70+ on 5th December with 48 there on 6th and 37 on 7th. 20 at Moortown, Leeds on 3rd December. Four at East Cowton (V.C. 65), being the only party in that V.C., on 20th November.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Bred at Settrington in V.C. 61 and in V.C. 64, away from the high ground, at Bardsey, Collingham, Pool Paper Mills, Horsforth Railway Station and in the Meanwood Valley. Otherwise status on the higher ground is unchanged.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Status if anything showing an increase though Tophill Low Res. considered that if any change there it was slightly downward. Light passage reported along the coast with 50 at Spurn on 10th October and 32 on 14th.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Little change in status though an increase at Fairburn. Breeding in Huddersfield at locations up to 1250 feet. 43 counted at Wath Ings on 5th November.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Breeding status unchanged. An influx noted along the coast with 125 at Flamborough on 11th October when 130 were reported between Cowden and Atwick. Good numbers were then reported for the next ten days with, at Flamborough, 270 on 12th; 150 on 13th; 184 on 14th; 215 on 16th; 500 on 17th; 300 on 18th; 250 on 19th; 222 on 20th; 150 on 21st and 200 on 23rd. Between Cowden and Atwick 170 were recorded on 13th with 130 on 14th; 200 on 16th and 110 on 18th whilst at Spurn between 40 and 400 were recorded daily from 12th to 22nd with peak of 500 on 16th and 17th.

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

No records of breeding received. Single birds were reported from Flamborough on 29th April (DGH) and Ardsley Res. on 9th and 10th August.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*

In May, two at Flamborough on 14th with one on 15th and 16th (AMA, PAL, JCL, MN, PJW, MJP). At Filey single birds on 12th and 18th (PJD, PAR, PRH); at Bempton on 17th and 18th May (TDC, IH *et al*); at Spurn with two on 14th and one on 15th and 16th (BRS *et al*); at Kirby Sigston on 15th (DT, NJM).

One at Flamborough on 17th and 18th September (AMA, MN, PJW) with one at Blacktoft from 18th to 22nd (AG *et al*).

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Bred at Bradford where one pair reared four young and in Sheffield with four occupied territories plus a further two males present; broods of four and five being reported. Singing males were also reported from Hull Docks and Huddersfield Town Centre.

In spring also reported from Booth Dam Quarry; Halifax; Fairburn and Rishworth, all inland, whilst along the coast at Flamborough, six were present on 2nd April with five on

the 3rd; two on 6th and three on 9th. Seven at Spurn on 2nd April with three on the 23rd and 30th. One to two birds also reported from eight other coastal locations.

A large influx along the coast in October with five at Scarborough on 21st; four at Filey on 14th, five on 18th and four again on 25th; at Bempton, three on 21st whilst at Flamborough six were reported on 15th with seven on 16th; 19 on 17th; 13 on 18th then six on 19th/20th with four on 21st. Six at Atwick on 12th with nine there on 18th; nine at Cowden on 11th; four on 12th; four on 14th and five on 16th; seven at Aldbrough on 21st. At Spurn numbers increased from three on 12th October to 15 on 16th with maximum of 21 on 17th thence decreasing again with the last one on 28th.

Single birds showing the characteristics of the eastern race *P.o.phoenicuroides* were reported from Flamborough on the 16th October (JMP) and Spurn on 15th and 16th (BRS *et al.*).

#### Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The first was reported from Tophill Low Res. on 2nd April with one at Thorpe Marsh on 4th. Light spring passage noted, particularly along the coast with maxima of five at Flamborough and four at Spurn.

Breeding status apparently unchanged. Small numbers along the coast during October with 20 at Flamborough on 2nd and 14 on 12th; 14 at Filey on this latter date whilst at Cowden, 16 were counted on 8th with Spurn recording 16 on the 12th and 13 on 16th. The last of the year being a male at Staintondale on 6th and 7th November.

Birds showing the characteristics of the race *P.p.samamiscicus* were reported from Flamborough on 17th October, a female, (PAL, WEO, SR, DAR, JMP); female on 18th (WEO); female and 1st winter male on 19th (PAL, WEO) and a female on 24th (PW).

#### Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

One at High Skelding on 3rd April, the first with the next at Staithes and Spurn on 17th. In spring up to 11 at Spurn during early May with peak of 17 on 8th whilst at Flamborough, 11 present on 8th and 11th; 22 on 14th; 19 on 15th and 14 on 18th.

Breeding status appears to be unchanged excepting that in V.C. 64 this species is now considered to be a bird exclusively of the upland/moorland edges.

Light autumn passage with 46 at Flamborough on 8th September; 26 on 9th and 22 on 13th and 15th; 12 at Cowden on 28th August with a similar count there on 8th September; up to 20 at Spurn during the latter days of August with slightly more in early September peaking at 42 on 10th. 11 were reported in a kale field near Tophill Low Res. from 28th August to 4th September. The last reported were single birds at Skipton S.W. on 23rd October and Spurn on 3rd/4th November.

#### Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Four at Cowden on 5th March otherwise all records during the early months were of single birds from Filey; Flamborough; Cowden and Spurn, along the coast; Saltend; Blacktoft; Clifton Airfield; Wath Ings; Broomhead Moor; Pugney's; Carlton Marsh; Windsor Res.; Timble Ings; Eccup Moor and near Settle.

A pair present at Ravenscar on 12th May and a female at Bempton on 10th and 11th June being the only records received during the summer months.

Many records from late September to the end of the year with one or two birds reported from some 35 locations. Three were present on Rombalds Moor on 14th October; three at Flamborough on 20th November; four at Cowden on 16th October with three there on 12th November and seven on 27th whilst at Spurn five were reported on 25th September with four or five from the 1st to 5th of October and up to seven on occasions to the end of that month; four also occasionally in the latter half of November.

Birds showing the characteristics of one of the eastern races *S.t.maura* or *S.t.stejnegeri* known colloquially as Siberian Stonechat were reported from Fairburn Ings on 3rd and 4th October and from Flamborough on 10th April; 14th October and 16th October (AMA, PAL, TD, JCL, NAP, JMP). The bird of 10th October has been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee, the others being still under consideration.

### **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first was reported on 19th March from Roundhill Res. with birds quite widespread by the end of the month. Maxima reported during spring being 25 at Spurn on 2nd April when 43 were recorded at Flamborough with 48 there on 3rd and 42 on the 17th; 13 at Kilnsea on 2nd April. Single birds reported frequently from Flamborough during mid to late June with one at Kilnsea on 18th.

Breeding status would appear to be unchanged.

Autumn passage light with 22 at Flamborough on 9th August as the highest number reported.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorrhoea* were reported from Flamborough on 24th and 27th April with a further eight recorded on six days in May. In V.C. 63 from Whitley Common with two on 2nd May; Treeton on 18th May; Doncaster Loco Sheds on 30th May and at Burbage Moor on the 1st and 7th May. Four at Mickletown Ings (V.C. 64) on 16th May.

### **Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*

A first winter male trapped at Flamborough on 17th October and present the following day. The first county record (PAL, WEO, SR *et al.*).

### **Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti*

Addition to the 1984 Report: A single bird at Flamborough on 3rd May (JCL, GAS).

### **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

First of the year were two at Barden on 23rd March with one at Agill and Royd Edge Clough on 24th. Light spring passage along the coast with four at both Filey and Bempton on 3rd April; three at Flamborough on 17th; four there on 19th and five on 29th; four at Spurn on 19th April.

Breeding status apparently unchanged.

Autumn passage peaked during the second and third weeks of October with ten at Scarborough Castle on 12th; 11 at Flamborough on 12th with eight on both 18th and 22nd; seven at Filey on 12th with six on 17th and nine on 21st. Six at Bempton on 13th and 14th whilst in the Hornsea area six were present on 11th with five on 18th. Eight at Spurn on 16th and six the following day.

Largest parties reported inland were 40 feeding on rowan berries at Redmires on 15th September with 15 at Ilkley the same day.

One of the birds at Filey on 12th October was considered to show the characteristics of the race *T.t.alpestris*.

### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Status unchanged. The only concentration reported during the early months being 210 in the Wath area on 16th January (foggy conditions) and 170 in Pickering Park, Hull on 26th February.

A large influx occurred during the middle of two weeks of October being mainly reflected along the coast though larger than usual counts at several inland locations. On 11th October 350 at Filey; 500 at Flamborough; 250 at Hornsea/Cowden and 100 at Spurn; 12th October, 200 at Scarborough; 350 at Filey; 1400 at Flamborough; 500 Hornsea/Cowden and 250 at Spurn; 13th saw 500 at Hornsea/Cowden whilst on 16th 500 at Filey; 1650 at Flamborough and 700 at Spurn. 1800 at Flamborough on 17th; 'hundreds' at Fylingdales on 20th when 1100 at Flamborough; 200 at Hornsea and 1500 at Spurn; 24th saw 'hundreds' at Scarborough Castle; 2000 at Filey; 850 at Flamborough and 650 at Hornsea. 1600 at Spurn on 25th with 1200 on 26th thereafter up to 500 to the end of the month.

110 at Fairburn during December with 120 at Wath Ings on 5th November; these the only counts of note during the latter months.

### **Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris***

Few large flocks reported during the early months with 400 at Beaver Dyke Res. on 29th January when 500 were at Brimham Lodge; 500 in the Idle valley on 18th/19th January with up to 500 at Broomhead Res. during January/February. Larger parties reported in spring with 1000 at Ingbarichworth on 19th March; 1000 at Malham on 4th April; 1200 roosting at Redmires on 5th; 4000 at Gunthwaite on 9th whilst between 7500 and 9000 were at Broomhead Moor from 6th to 9th April with 1000 on Royd Moor on 16th. The last of the spring were two at Flamborough on 1st June with one at Spurn from 1st to 4th.

The first returning bird was reported from Flamborough on 1st September with small numbers reported from many locations by the end of this month. A large influx occurred during mid October, particularly evident along the coast with several inland locations also reporting large numbers. On 11th October, 1800 at Flamborough, 1850 at Hornsea/Cowden with 600 at Spurn; on 12th 'hundreds' passing over Fylingdales; 2000 at Scarborough; 2200 at Flamborough; 3100 between Atwick/Cowden and 650 at Spurn; 1800 at Flamborough on 13th with 2000 in the Atwick/Cowden area and 700 at Spurn; 2100 between Atwick and Cowden on 16th with 200 at Spurn. 850 at Flamborough on 18th; 500 at Spurn on 19th then on 20th; 1200 at Spurn with 2600 at Flamborough; 610 at Spurn on 22nd with 3500 there on 24th when 6100 were at Flamborough and 2500 at Filey. 7500 at Spurn on 25th with 2700 at Flamborough whilst on 26th Flamborough reported 2000 and Spurn 1000 with 400 at the latter on 27th. Along the Humber at Sunk Island westerly passage was reported on 15th with 850 counted; 2450 on 22nd and 1500 on 23rd. Inland in V.C. 63 14,500 flew west at Redmires on 22nd (this being the highest count ever recorded at this location); 6447 on 27th and 7457 on 28th; 1100 southwest at Worsbrough on 22nd and 1842 south at Wath Ings on 28th. Fairburn Ings, in V.C. 64, reported good numbers during this period with 2500 on 12th; 1700 from 13th to 17th thence 2000 on 22nd and 2800 on 28th. 2000 were at Ripon Parks on 20th with 1000 at Baildon on 13th. Smaller numbers were reported thereafter with 1100 at Kilnsey on 29th December being by far the highest.

*Addition to the 1987 Report; 6000+ at Snaith from 11th to 13th November.*

### **Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

Distribution and breeding status would appear to be unchanged in all areas. Small numbers reported throughout the year with the exception of a very large influx along the coast in mid October. On 11th 450 were counted at Flamborough with 130 between Atwick/Cowden and 48 at Spurn; the following day saw 2200 at Flamborough (this being the largest recorded daily count for Yorkshire), 190 from Atwick to Cowden and 260 at Spurn; 100 at Bempton on 13th with 400 at Flamborough and 160 from Hornsea to Cowden; 100 still at Bempton on 14th, 450 at Flamborough and 70 at Hornsea/Cowden; 450 from Atwick to Cowden on 16th with 100 at Spurn; 400 at Flamborough on 17th with 450 there also on 18th and 400 on 19th. 100 at Spurn on 20th; 300 at Flamborough on 22nd with 650 there on 24th when 85 were at Atwick with 400 at Flamborough on 25th after which numbers along the coast declined rapidly. This influx was not reported north of Flamborough with few birds at Scarborough and Filey reporting 'a quiet year with no evidence of migration in either season'.

100 feeding on berries at Collingham Hall on 25th September was considered a very high number for that area.

### **Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

Small numbers during the early months with up to 350 at Thorpe Marsh in January; 200 at Ossett on 28th January and 300 at Wooley Wood on 3rd January as the highest counts reported.

As with other thrushes, a large influx occurred in mid October, particularly noticeable along the coast. On 11th Spurn reported 400 with 2400 between Atwick/Cowden and 2300 at Flamborough; the following day 350 were at Spurn; 7500 between Cowden and Atwick, 4000 at Flamborough, 2500 at Filey, 'many' at Scarborough and thousands passing over Fylingdales. 3100 from Cowden to Atwick on 13th with 2100 at Flamborough and 800 at Bempton; on 14th less with 1750 between Cowden and Atwick; 1800 at Flamborough and

800 at Bempton. On the 16th, 2500 at Spurn with 3500 from Atwick to Cowden and 3300 at Flamborough; 20th saw 600 at Atwick with 1000 at Spurn whilst on 24th 3400 at Flamborough; 1750 at Atwick and 2250 at Spurn; 1900 at Flamborough on 25th with 1600 at Atwick and 2000 at Spurn with finally on 26th, 1500 at Flamborough. Between 12th and 20th heavy westerly movement was noted at Fylingdales with thousands recorded each day. Further inland smaller numbers were reported during this period with the exception of Fairburn where 750 were recorded on 13th with 1000 on 15th, 900 on 22nd and 700 on 23rd; 500 over Tadcaster on 25th with a similar count at Ripon Parks on 20th; 800 at Knotford Nook on 18th. At Redmires 2845 passed southwest on 12th with 1135 on 13th and 2966 on 22nd. Once the influx had ceased very few large parties were reported apart from 2000 near Bardsey (Leeds), on 3rd December.

#### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Breeding status and distribution in all areas would appear to be unchanged. Only small numbers reported until autumn when post breeding flocks were reported from many locations, the larger being, 80 at Cannon Hall on 18th August; 56 in Beckett's Park, Leeds, on 2nd August; 77 at Goathland on 17th August; 75 at Esholt S.W. on 26th August with 46 at High Batts N.R. on 25th September and 44 at Folley Hall on 16th June. 19 were recorded at Spurn on 21st October, associated with the general influx of thrushes.

#### **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

One singing briefly at Spurn on 3rd April constituted the first record for the Observatory. (SRL, DW, JW *et al*).

#### **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

The first birds of the year were reported on 16th April at Blacktoft and Spurn; being quite widespread by the end of the month. Breeding was confirmed at Flamborough (one pair – in oil seed rape); Hornsea Mere, one pair; Primrose Valley, one pair; Tophill Low Res., two perhaps three pairs; Cowden, no count but 23 singing males on 6th June; Blacktoft with eight males in June; Carlton Marsh, four pairs; Wadworth Wood, two pairs; Potteric Carr, two pairs; Idle valley, six pairs and Wath Ings, one pair. Probably bred at Fairburn Ings and Felkirk whilst singing males were reported on one or more days at a further 19 locations. Single bird at Flamborough on 9th September though a freshly dead corpse was found at Spurn on 23rd October.

#### **Savi's Warbler** *Locustella lusciniooides*

Single birds were reported at Flamborough from 26th to 29th April (JCL, DGH) and on 8th May (PAL).

#### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

First reported were two at Fairburn Ings on 12th April thence Hay-a-Park on 14th and Blacktoft on 15th. A higher than normal breeding population at Tophill Low Res. otherwise numbers elsewhere were considered to be normal. At Atwick and Wilsic pairs were recorded breeding in oil-seed rape. Spring passage light with 16 at Flamborough on 5th and 8th May whilst Spurn reported 12 on this latter date. Autumn passage also reported as light with 13 at Spurn on 4th August and 11 at Flamborough on 18th. Most locations reported the last birds between 12th and 18th September with one at Wintersett on 26th; Blacktoft on 2nd October and Spurn 1st; 2nd; 5th and 20th October.

#### **Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*

Single birds at Spurn 12th June (BRS *et al*); Filey on 6th and 7th July (TLH, IR, JH, HJW) and at Flamborough on 12th October (PAL).

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One at Potteric Carr on 16th April was the first with birds at Blacktoft and Mickletown Ings on 18th. In V.C. 61 'common breeder' at Hornsea Mere though no numbers available; numbers constant at Tophill Low Res. with between 29 and 33 pairs; three pairs bred at Flamborough with small numbers at several locations along the Humber. In V.C. 62 the small colony at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough held at least two pairs in late May whilst in V.C. 63 an estimated 420 pairs bred at Blacktoft though success was not good due to wet weather during fledging. 50+ pairs at Potteric Carr; 30 pairs at Altofts with ten pairs in the Idle valley; nine at Pugney's and six at Denaby Ings. Singing males reported from many other locations in the V.C. with 18 at Wath Ings; 15 at Wintersett and 12 at Carlton Marsh. In V.C. 64, 16 singing males at Mickletown Ings on 31st May; 11 at Fairburn Ings with three or four pairs at Hay-a-Park and two at Lemonroyd S.F.. An adult male trapped at Catterick Village on 4th June (V.C. 65), the first ever recorded in that area by the observer.

Light autumn passage with late birds being reported from Spurn on 26th October and Flamborough on 3rd November.

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

Single birds recorded at Spurn on 9th August; on 3rd/4th September and at Kilnsea on 17th remaining until the 19th. One at Flamborough on 15th May with one there on 3rd and 4th September; two on 7th and one on 8th; 15th and 18th. One there on 3rd October (JMP, PAL *et al*). One at Cowden on 8th September (WFC) and one at Scarborough on 9th (DB).

A single juvenile trapped and ringed at Carlton Marsh on 6th September remained in the area until 10th (DMS, GMC).

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans*

One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on 5th November is still under consideration by the British Birds Rarities Committee (SML, MCH).

**Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

A poor year with single birds being reported at Flamborough from 13th to 16th August; 22nd September; at Cowden on 9th September and Spurn on the 3rd.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

The first of the year was reported from Wintersett Res. on 18th April with birds then reported from Potteric Carr on 20th and Nosterfield on 21st. Widespread by early May with light coastal passage excepting at Flamborough with 13 on 6th and 48 on 8th though 15 were recorded at Spurn on the 8th when ten were also at Filey. No comments received concerning the breeding status but considered to be unchanged. 11 pairs bred at Wintersett with ten at Potteric Carr whilst 13 were in song in the Bardsey/East Keswick area during mid May.

Only slight autumn passage noted with 18 at Spurn on 28th August as the highest count reported. The last birds were seen on 18th October at Flamborough; from 18th to 20th at Spurn and on 21st at Cowden.

Birds showing the characteristics of the eastern race *S.c. blythi* were recorded as follows: at Flamborough; three on 15th September; one on 16th; two on 18th; three on 19th. (AMA, JMP, PAL, JCL, DAR). Single birds there on 14th; 17th; 18th and 26th October (PAL, JMP, DAR, MN, PJW). One at Spurn on 14th October.

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

Very early birds were reported from Farnham on 3rd April and Thrybergh on 4th with the next being recorded on 18th April at Wintersett and 20th at Pugney's. Light spring passage with 18 at Flamborough on 8th and 10th May and peak there of 25 on 14th.

Breeding status continues to increase with comments of 'continuing to improve' (V.C. 65); 'most lowland areas reported an increase' (V.C. 64); 'excellent recovery in the Barnsley

area'; 'had increases in the Doncaster area'; 'Slow increase in numbers around Huddersfield continues' (V.C. 63).

38 pairs bred at Wintersett with 24 at Wadworth Wood; 26 in the Idle valley; 15 at Potteric Carr and 12 in the Wath area. In addition 15 males were reported in the Horbury area; 14 at Edderthorpe whilst on 17th July 32 were counted at Wath.

Autumn passage was light with 12 at Flamborough on 5th August and up to 20 at Spurn from 16th to 18th. Last birds recorded were singles at Filey on 22nd October and at Flamborough on 23rd.

#### **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

One at Tophill Low Res. on 17th April was the first reported with birds at Knostrop and Hornsea Mere on 22nd then Tickhill and Patrington Haven on the 23rd. Light spring passage with 14 at Flamborough on 15th May and 16 on 21st.

Generally had a good breeding season with numbers up in the Sheffield area. 32 pairs bred in the Doncaster area with 47 in the Barnsley recording area and 16+ around Huddersfield.

Only small numbers reported during autumn with eight at Flamborough on 12th October being the highest count reported from the coast. Late birds were recorded at Scarborough on 22nd October; Filey on 24th with singles at Spurn on 1st and 3rd November and finally one at Flamborough on 4th.

#### **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Wintering birds were reported from many locations; in V.C. 61, at Flamborough on 1st January; V.C. 62 at Cornelian Bay on 2nd and 10th January with a pair at Osborne Park on 6th March; V.C. 63 had many with three on 6th February in Sheffield Botanical Gardens plus birds at a further three locations in the city; in Pontefract at two locations; Halifax; two locations in Huddersfield and one in Barnsley. In V.C. 64 birds were recorded from 11 locations with three at Fairburn Ings on 16th February and two in Ripon Spar Gardens on 4th February. One daily at a bird table in Preston-under-Scar (V.C. 65) during the period January to March.

The first migrants were probably at Flamborough on 2nd April with birds at Bretton Park; Wilsic; Spurn; Flamborough; Filey and Atwick on 3rd.

Spring and autumn passage both light with eight at Filey in spring and 24 at Flamborough in autumn being the peak counts.

Breeding status considered to be unchanged with good numbers around Doncaster and Huddersfield; well distributed around Barnsley and Bradford though perhaps fewer in the Halifax area.

Widespread until early November with one at Bridlington on 27th November; up to three at Hornsea Mere during December; Scarborough on 23rd November; Robin Hood's Bay on 18th December; Burniston from 22nd to 24th December; at six locations in V.C. 63 and six in V.C. 64 with two at High Batts N.R. on 20th and 22nd December.

#### **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

A single bird at Filey on 6th and 7th September (PJD *et al*). Single at Flamborough was trapped on the 7th being released the following morning (PAL, JMP, AMA *et al*). A second bird seen at Flamborough on the 8th is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*. (PAL).

#### **Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

At least eight birds, most likely nine, reported at Flamborough; one from 15th to 18th October (JCL, AMA, DGH, PAL *et al*); one trapped on 21st (JMP, PAL, JCL *et al*); one on 22nd (AMA, DIMW, VAL *et al*); five, two of which were trapped, on 25th (PAL, JMP, MN, PJW, SG *et al*); one on 26th (AMA, PAL) and two on 27th, one of which was already ringed (PAL *et al*). One at Filey on 24th October (PJD *et al*). One at Atwick on 28th

October (WFC). One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on 16th October (CL, PM, DP). One trapped and ringed at Spurn on 23rd was still present the following day. (BRS *et al*). One on Scarborough Castle Hill from 18th to 22nd October (RHA, KW, CAC *et al*).

#### **Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus***

A very good year. One on Scarborough Castle Hill on 17th September (DB) with three there on 2nd October and one to two remaining until 10th (DB, KW). Another present on 21st October (RHA). In V.C. 61 at Filey at least 11 birds were recorded with one on 16th and 17th September (DJS, PMS HJW *et al*); two on 5th October (DJS) with one on 11th (SC); four on 12th increasing to six on the 15th (SC, JH, DJS, HJW *et al*) with one remaining until the 17th. One from 23rd to 27th (DJS *et al*). One at Bempton on 13th October with Flamborough reporting the best ever year; at least 70 birds being reported with probably as many as 85 or 90 actually being involved. The first were seven on 15th September with two the following day; four on 17th; six on 18th with one on 22nd. In October, four present on 3rd; five on the 4th; 13 on 5th with three on 6th and one on 9th; 10th and 11th. 11 on 12th with four on 13th; seven on 14th; 11 on 15th then eight on the 16th and 17th decreasing to four on 18th thence six on 20th with four on the 21st; five on 22nd; four on the 21st; five on 22nd; four on 23rd and finally one on 24th and 27th. (AMA, DGH, JMP, JCL, PAL *et al*). Singles at Atwick on 12th and 16th October (WFC). Two at Cowden on 18th (WFC), one at Holmpton on 18th (AC, DMP) with one at Kilnsea on 15th; three or more on 16th; two on 17th and 18th and one on 19th; (SML, MCH). Spurn had single birds on 14th; 17th; and 22nd September whilst in October one on 2nd; two on 3rd (one dead); two on 4th/5th; one on 6th; between two and five daily from the 11th to 17th with 15 being ringed in this period; one on 18th with a different bird from 19th to 21st; two on 22nd and finally one on 24th.

Inland, single birds at Normanton, near Pickering, on 20th October (RHA); in V.C. 63, at Carlton Marsh on 25th September (CG *et al*); at Winterset on 12th and 13th October (DG, PM *et al*) and Atherley North on 21st and 22nd October (RT).

#### **Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi***

A single bird trapped at Flamborough on 16th October (TD, JMP, NAP, MJP, PAL, JCL, SR) with an unringed bird present on 17th (PAL). One at Sammy's Point, Kilnsea on 17th October (DJB *et al*) with one at Spurn on 16th being trapped the following day (RA, BRS, NPW *et al*). The Flamborough birds are still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus***

A single bird trapped and ringed at Flamborough on 25th October (PJW, MN, PAL, SG, JMP). This is still under consideration by the *British Birds Rarities Committee*.

#### **Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix***

One at Fairburn Ings on 15th April with three in Bolton Abbey Woods on 19th when one was at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough. Quite widespread in early May with migrants in small numbers along the coast; four at Bempton on 1st May with three at Flamborough on 15th. Status would appear to be unchanged though in V.C. 64 it is thought there may be a slight increase. Eight pairs in Forge Valley in May with a similar number in the Ewden valley (Barnsley); 20+ in Bolton Abbey Woods in May with 20+ in Richmond Woods during the same period.

Few reported during autumn with two at Flamborough on 4th September and a late bird trapped at Spurn on 11th October.

#### **Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***

Overwintering birds were recorded at Flamborough in January/February; Hunmanby from January till early April; Saltend, in January (considered to show the characteristics of the race *P.c. abietinus*); Burniston in January; Hutton Rudby, in February; two locations in V.C. 63 in January and February with birds at Harrogate in February/March and Headingley in January and Spurn in February.

The first immigrants arriving mid March with light coastal passage noted; breeding status being assumed to be unchanged with autumn passage also light.

Overwintering birds were reported in December from Flamborough; Hull; Bransholme; Blacktoft; Wintersett; Harthill Res.; Rother Valley C.P.; Otley; Hay-a-Park; Menston and Scarborough.

Birds showing the characteristics of one or other of the eastern races were reported as follows: *P.c.abietinus*; Flamborough on 15th September (five) with 15 during October; four occurring on both 20th and 23rd. The overwintering bird at Saltend (above) was considered to be of this race whilst one at Wintersett in December was though likewise. Birds though to be of the race *P.c.tristis* were at Flamborough on 15th September; 13th and 14th October; Filey on 20th October; Atwick on 18th.

#### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The first arrival was reported from Fairburn Ings on 30th March with one at Flamborough on 31st. Spring passage quite light with 43 at Flamborough on 20th April when 41 were at Wath; 81 at Wintersett on 24th; 70+ at Lindley Wood Res. on 29th and 41 at Flamborough on 30th. 42 at Flamborough on 1st May with 70 there on 8th. Breeding status unchanged with 71 males at Wintersett holding territories; 50+ at Howell Wood and between 58 and 64 pairs at Tophill Low Res..

In autumn; 33 at Flamborough on 28th August when Spurn recorded 44; the former location having higher counts in early September with 53 on 3rd; 48 on 4th and 53 on 8th whilst at High Batts N.R. 70 were recorded on 18th.

Small numbers reported into October with one at Hawnby on 8th when the last bird was also reported from Fairburn Ings; the last in V.C. 63 being at Thrybergh on 13th with birds at Sunk Island; Filey and Flamborough on 15th; Flamborough on 16th; Spurn on 17th; Flamborough on 18th (four) and Spurn on 21st and 28th.

Birds considered to belong to the race *P.t.acredula* were reported from Filey on one day in September and two in October; from Flamborough with two on 17th April; two on 20th and 30th with one on 19th. In May; ten on 1st; three on 14th with one on four other days. A single bird seen on 18th October there showed characteristics of the race. *P.t.yakutensis* (WEO).

#### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Breeding status appears to be unchanged though in V.C. 64 considered to be on the increase. Numbers low during the early months excepting 20+ at Malham on 4th April; an unusually high count for that location.

A large influx occurred along the coast commencing on 10th/11th October with 200 in the Hornsea/Cowden area on 11th; 370 at Flamborough on 12th; 120 at Filey with 400 between Hornsea and Cowden. On 13th; 220 at Filey, 610 at Flamborough with 400 at Hornsea/Cowden; few present on 15th but increased numbers again on 16th with 310 at Flamborough; 450 from Hornsea/Cowden and 1000+ at Spurn; Flamborough then recorded 450 on 18th; 220 on 19th; 1150 on 20th with 620 on 21st; 420 on 22nd; 150 on 23rd and 200 on 25th whilst at Spurn reported 800 on 17th; 100 on 18th; 100 on 19th; 1000 on 20th and 21st with 500 on 22nd and 132 on 23rd. No observations at Hornsea/Cowden and surprisingly very few birds were noted at Atwick only three miles north of Hornsea. This influx was noted at Scarborough with 200 on 20th and reported as 'everywhere' on 19th and 21st; a similar observation received from Pickering on 21st. The influx was noted inland with larger than usual parties in many areas particularly at Lindley Wood Res. with 90+ on 17th November and 110+ on 22nd December.

#### **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

In V.C. 61 recorded at Filey with one on 6th April (CCT): Flamborough, one on 29th March; two on 30th with two on 1st April; one on 20th/21st. One on 15th September, 12th and 15th October with two on 17th and 18th thence one on 19th; 20th; 21st and 23rd October (PAL *et al*). Three singing males were at Hornsea Mere on 16th April with two until 19th and one to 24th (TDC). Spurn had single birds on 31st March; 1st April with two

on 2nd. One on 1st 20th and 27th May. One on 19th and 20th October; three on 2nd and one on 27th. In V.C. 62; one at Scarborough on 22nd October (KW) whilst in V.C. 63 single birds were recorded at Scammonden on 31st January (JED); Ingbirchworth Res. on 24th September (JMT *et al*); Thorpe Marsh on 9th October (PHM); Wymingbrook from 20th to 24th May (RDH) and Wooley Woods on 18th December (PJS). Single birds were reported in V.C. 64 from Malham Tarn on 4th April (TW, BS, AC) and Knotford Nook on 29th October with one also there on 31st December (PJC).

#### **Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

The first of the year was at Bretton Park on 2nd May followed by one at Adel Woods on 7th thence quite widespread on the 8th with ten at Flamborough; six at Spurn; two at Filey and one each at Scarborough; Bolton Abbey and Settle. The main spring passage occurred during the second week of May with Flamborough reporting 38 on 14th; 23 on 15th and 21 on 17th when Filey recorded nine; smaller counts at Spurn with ten on 27th as the peak number.

Comments received on breeding status were favourable with good numbers in most areas of V.C. 63 including birds well into urban areas of Sheffield. In all other V.C.s the status would appear to be unchanged.

Light autumn passage with 15 at Filey on 7th September and a similar number at Flamborough on 4th. The last birds reported were singles at Kilnsea and Holmpton on 16th October and finally at Scarborough on 24th.

#### **Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva***

A single male at Bempton on 13th May (TDC *et al*) and a female at Flamborough on the same day (PAL *et al*). In autumn two at Flamborough on 15th September with one on the 17th. In October single birds there on 10th; 11th; 12th; 13th; 14th and 17th. Single at Scarborough on 12th and 13th October (DB, KW); at Filey on 17th September and 11th October (HJW, JH, TL); at Atwick on 17th October (WFC); at Bempton, two on 13th October (IH, RCH, ASB, VAL); at Kilnsea on 18th (SML, MCH) and at Spurn on 20th October (BRS *et al*).

Inland, a single bird at Pugney's on 15th September (PM, IY).

#### **Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca***

A single bird at Flamborough on 18th April was the earliest reported with birds at Barden on 19th and on 20th at Worsbrough; Spa Gill and Belle Isle (Leeds). Spring passage peaked on 14th May with 21 at Flamborough and 12 at Spurn after ten at Flamborough on 13th.

Breeding reports were good though in one area of V.C. 65 success was considered to be slightly down. A brood of nine in Folly Hall whilst five were fledged from a nest box in a garden in Sheffield.

In autumn reported as scarce at Flamborough with ten on the 7th September; 23 on 8th (when 13 were at Cowden); 14 on 9th and 18 on 15th. Spurn had a maximum of eight during early September with ten at Filey; also on the 8th; being their highest count. Latest birds reported were two at Scarborough on 17th October with one at Spurn on 21st and 25th.

#### **Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus***

Survived the winter well at Blacktoft with good numbers present in early spring. 80 pairs are estimated to have bred there with good success from the first and second broods though poor from third broods. 600 estimated present in September with 200 considered to have over wintered.

Very few records away from Blacktoft with two trapped at Flamborough on 23rd October being present on 26th with one remaining until 29th. Hornsea Mere had a single bird on 17th July being seen on several days until the 22nd then two on the 28th and 31st. Two

again on 1st October. Four flew south at Spurn on 13th October with two there on 26th and one the following day. In V.C. 64; one at Fairburn Ings on 9th October and two there on 26th November.

#### **Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***

Generally considered to have had a good breeding season with very little change in status. Flocks in the early months mainly small with the exception of 50+ at Lindley Wood Res. on 7th January. During the latter months, 90 at Otley S.F. on 26th November; 60+ at Lindley Wood Res. on 17th October; 50 at High Batts N.R. on 30th July and 50 at Tophill Low Res. on 28th August and 21st September.

#### **Marsh Tit *Parus palustris***

Scarce in V.C. 61 though bred at Millington and thought to have done so at Warter Priory. Two at Filey on 6th May with one there on 28th October; two in the Humber Bridge C.P. on 14th December. Quite local in V.C. 63 being mainly found in the southeast of the area; four at Roche Abbey on 3rd January being the most reported. Local in many areas of V.C. 64 though located up many of the dales. A 50 per cent drop estimated in the number of reported locations in the Harrogate area. Highest counts in this V.C. being 12 at High Batts N.R. on both 13th March and 25th December. No change reported from V.C. 65.

#### **Willow Tit *Parus Montanus***

The only breeding records received from V.C. 61 were from Tophill Low Res. and Millington. Reported at Flamborough on 7th September (the first for many years) with one at Bempton on 3rd September. One at Spurn on 1st July with one to three at Sunk Island on several days in October; three at Atwick on 18th October. Locally in small numbers in the southeast of V.C. 62 with four in Scarborough on 9th October. Well distributed in the lowland areas of V.C. 63 but quite scarce further west; five pairs bred at Wintersett; 16 birds at Wath on 22nd February and ten at Edderthorpe on 22nd December. Far more widely distributed in V.C. 64 than Marsh Tit though considered to be decreasing in some areas (Leeds); usually reported in small numbers but eight at Fairburn Ings during September and 18 at High Batts N.R. on 25th September. Local in V.C. 65 and 'not as common as Marsh Tit'.

#### **Coal Tit *Parus ater***

Thinly distributed in V.C. 61 with breeding occurring at Hornsea Mere; Tophill Low Res.; Burnby and Nunburnholme. Numbers in all locations being small with eight at Tophill Low Res. on 11th December being the highest count though eight at Filey during October when an influx was recorded from several locations along the coast; Flamborough having seven on 17th September and Spurn five on 25th and 30th October; seven east along the cliffs at Speeton on 23rd October. Few reported from V.C. 62 whilst in V.C. 63 widely distributed in coniferous and mixed woodlands with flocks of 70 at Great Gate Wood on 5th March; 40+ at Branton on 16th February and 40 at Yateholme on 15th February. V.C. 64 reported no change in status with flocks of 60+ at Timble Ings on 12th November and 30 at Eccup Res. during August/September. Common in coniferous woodland in V.C. 65.

#### **Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus***

No change in status reported. An influx noted along the coast in autumn with 195 at Flamborough on 18th September and 85 there on 11th October; Filey recorded 30 south on 29th September; 50 on 14th October and 100+ on 21st October. 60 at Spurn on 10th October whilst along the Humber at Sunk Island 20 were present on 15th October and 39 on 22nd. Elsewhere 130 at Bretton Park on 11th January; 80 at Blacktoft on 4th February with 39 southwest at Redmires Res. on 1st October. 150 at High Batts N.R. on 25th September; 211 young reared from 26 pairs in nest boxes at Eccup after which flocks of up to 200 were recorded from July to October; 208 reared from 21 pairs at Folly Hall.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

The only change in status noted was at Tophill Low Res. where 'quite a drop on the 1987 figures'. 48 at Flamborough on 18th September (see Blue Tit) was indicative of passage though few were reported elsewhere along the coast. 45 at Bretton Park on 11th January; 43 at Brookfoot Lake on 24th April and 40 at Moss Valley on 17th January being the largest flocks reported.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

In V.C. 61 'probably bred at Warter Priory in good numbers' and possibly bred at Scampston. One of the Filey birds remained from 1987 until 26th February. In V.C. 62 recorded from several locations in and around Scarborough and the edge of the North York Moors. In V.C. 63 bred at Beaumont Park, (Huddersfield); Nostell; Stainborough; Spring Woods (Bradford); Mount Pleasant and Wilsic (both Doncaster) with probable breeding occurring at a further five locations. In V.C. 64 the increase of previous years appears to have slowed although 21 pairs were recorded breeding at nine locations in the Leeds area and a further 13 locations reported breeding birds, including Malham Tarn Woods. Widespread in V.C. 65, particularly around Richmond.

**Tree creeper** *Certhia familiaris*

No change in status reported; 12 at High Batts N.R. on 25th September and ten at Stainborough on 27th March.

**Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*

Two, probably immature birds, were at Blacktoft on 11th and 12th November. (AG); the third county record. Not yet submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

An immature male at Spurn on 20th and 21st May with a probable female at Potteric Carr on 26th June (TR).

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

A male at Hilla Green (V.C. 62) on 21st May (TL, JH) and an immature at the Rother Valley C.P. on 22nd August (GP). All other records were from the coast and are as follows: at Spurn; one on 26th and 27th May; one on 11th and 13th June; two on 9th August with one remaining until 29th; single birds from 4th to 7th; 8th/9th and 13th to 22nd. All the autumn birds being juveniles. A male at Kilnsea on 16th July; one at Cowden on 14th October; a male at Filey on 8th May with a female the following day and a juvenile there on 11th September. At Flamborough, single birds on 11th; 12th; 14th and 24th June; 22nd August; 8th; 9th and 25th September.

**Isabelline Shrike** *Lanius isabellinus*

A single first winter bird was present at Spurn from 14th to 20th October being caught and ringed on 15th (BRS, JC, JKB *et al*). The third county record and the first for the Observatory.

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

Inland, single birds were reported in V.C. 64 from Temple Newsam on 7th February with another, or possibly the same bird, at Oulton Hall from 19th to 31st March. One at Brimham Rocks from 28th February to 19th April and finally one at Stourton (Leeds) from 27th to 31st December.

Along the coast, a single bird near Scarborough on 22nd March; at Grimston on 18th and 19th April whilst in autumn one at Flamborough on 17th; 18th and 19th October with three on 20th; one on 21st; two on 22nd and 23rd with one on 24th and 29th. At Spurn one from 20th to 23rd October with another on 29th.

*Addition to the 1986 Report:* One at Easington on 9th April.

### **Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

Bred at Hornsea Mere and Sherburn, in V.C. 61 otherwise few reported in this V.C. Widespread breeding reported in V.C. 63 with numbers apparently maintained. 22 in Wooley Woods on 17th December with 20 at Winterset on 2nd October and 19 southwest over Concorde Park (Sheffield) on 8th October. In V.C. 64, a definite increase in records from the Harrogate area. A single bird at Malham Tarn on 21st October being only the third record from that location; 21 at Lindley Wood Res. on 1st July, the largest party recorded in that V.C..

### **Magpie *Pica pica***

Would appear to be increasing in most areas of V.C. 61. Large parties reported being up to 32 at Flamborough in January; 45 in February and 33 on 26th November. Up to 35 at Atwick during both winters. No comments on breeding from either V.C. 62 or V.C. 63; large parties reported in the latter being 75 on 12th January at Longwood Valley (Huddersfield); 69 at Blackmoorfoot on 13th February; between 30 and 80 all year at Wath; 70 at Wilsden on 19th December and 60 at Winterset on 18th March. In V.C. 64 still increasing in parts of Leeds and Bradford; maximum counts at roosts in this V.C. being 121 at Esholt S.W. on 19th January; 120 at Gledhow Valley (Leeds) during January/February and 110 in the Rodley/Horsforth area of Leeds on 27th February. No comments from V.C. 65.

### **Jackdaw *Corvus monedula***

Breeding status assumed to be unchanged. Roosts in V.C. 61 at Hornsea Mere were put at 'hundreds' whilst at Tophill Low Res. 1200 recorded on 19th January; 1200 on 13th March; 1500 on 30th December. Presumed migrants of continental origin were reported from Flamborough with 45 on 6th March; 68 on 29th; 29 on 1st April with 28 on 2nd; 35 on 3rd; 38 on 10th; 90 on 14th May and 63 on 23rd October. In V.C. 64; c2000 at East Keswick on 29th October, 650+ at Eccup on 27th December and 500+ at High Batts N.R. on several occasions between August and December. 3550 at Bolton-on-Swale, V.C. 65, on 23rd December.

### **Rook *Corvus frugilegus***

No reports received to suggest any change in status. 'Several thousands' present in the mixed *corvid* roost at Hornsea Mere during the winter months. 1500 to 2000 at Tophill Low Res. regularly until mid February with a peak of 3000 on 24th January. In V.C. 63; 54 nests on electricity pylons near Stocksbridge; a roost of 3000 corvids, mainly of this species, was present near Ingbirchworth during August/September. In V.C. 64, a congregation of c10,000 *corvids* disturbed by a Peregrine at East Keswick on 28th November was considered to be mainly of this species. 1200 at Tadcaster on 12th December.

### **Carriion Crow *Corvus corone***

Passage was noted along the coast at both Flamborough and Spurn with the former recording 84 on 20th March; 85 on 1st April; 105 on 2nd; 140 on 17th and 96 on the 20th. Smaller numbers in November/December; 108 on 26th November being the peak. Spurn recorded up to 40 during October and November. Westerly passage reported along the Humber at Sunk Island during October with 63 on 1st; 56 on 22nd whilst in November 83 on 5th; 73 on 19th. Widespread in V.C. 63 and increasing slightly around Huddersfield; highest counts in this V.C. being 50 at Shroggs Tip, Halifax on 20th and 29th January with 38 on 20th July at Broadstones Lodge. Maximum gatherings reported in V.C. 64 were 182 at Esholt S.W. on 26th March with 112 at Rodley S.F. on 26th December.

Birds of the race *C.c.cornix*; Hooded Crow were reported from Flamborough on frequent occasions during the early months with five on 25th March and four on 20th. A single bird in the Flamborough/Bempton/Filey areas on 13th and 14th May. One at Tophill

Low Res. on 3rd April was the first there for six years. One at Roche Abbey (V.C. 63) on 21st December and one at Agill on 6th November.

A bird showing some characteristics of this race was at Saville Park, Halifax, during late August.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

One pair possibly bred in the northwest of the county with one or two birds seen frequently in this area. Two at Stang Forest on 30th October; two near Settle on 3rd April with one at Gouthwaite on 12th March and 10th April. Two at Halton Gill on 6th September with two (same?) in the Malham Tarn area in October and two at Litton on 11th December. In V.C. 63 singles were reported from Redmires on 28th February; Digley on 15th May and Wadworth Wood on 26th December. One flew south at Flamborough on 11th October.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The roost at Hornsea Mere increased from 10,000 on 8th November to 110,000 on 3rd December. 21,000 roosted at Saltend on 4th July otherwise numbers only small in V.C. 61. 10,000 roosted at Blacktoft in August increasing to 30,000 in September; 80,000 on 29th October and 75,000 on 5th November; 10,000 to 15,000 roosting regularly in Leeds City Centre. 3150 south at Spurn on 22nd October with 2130 south there on 19th and 2000 on 26th.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Small numbers only in V.C. 61 with the largest flock by far reported being 300 at Filey in late October. In V.C. 63; 400 at Edderthorpe on 20th July with 500 at Wath on 4th October; 1000 at Thrybergh on 29th July and 1550 there on 10th August. Up to 150 at several locations in V.C. 64.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Breeding in good numbers in the rural/lowland areas around Barnsley and Sheffield though less common around Halifax; Huddersfield and Bradford. 100 at Carlton on 22nd February; 100 at Thrybergh on 11th August and 100 in Pontefract Park on 28th December. Locally distributed in V.C. 64 though very rare now in the Settle area. 200 recorded at Bardsey on 18th October with 200 during December at Farnham. More numerous at Flamborough than of late with 62 on 12th March whilst at Tophill Low Res. 52 on 17th January; higher than usual numbers also being reported from this location. 151 south at Spurn on 22nd October.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Status unchanged; Little passage noted along the coast though along the Humber at Sunk Island 279 flew east on 22nd October and 121 west there on 29th. At Blacktoft, 202 south on 2nd October whilst westerly passage was reported at Redmires Res. with 280 there on 25th September and 300 on 22nd October. Largest flocks reported were 800 at Hawnby on 28th December with 200 to 210 at Tophill Low Res. during January and early February; 230 at Redmires on 11th January; 250 at Upper Midhope from mid October to late November and 200 at High Batts N.R. during January.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Quite well distributed during the early months with 300 at Wydale (V.C. 62) in mid January; 150 near Halifax in January with 170 roosting at Redmires on 31st January and 190 there on 1st April. In V.C. 64, in January, 100+ were present at Farnley Park (Leeds) with 120 in Roundhay Park (Leeds) and 100 in Golden Acre Park (Leeds). Beckett's Park (also Leeds) held 153 on 3rd April with 189 the following day decreasing to 93 on 5th. Stragglers lingered into early May particularly along the coast.

After the first of the autumn on 20th September when three flew west at Redmires, birds were quite widespread albeit in smaller numbers than the early months. 210 flew west at

Redmires on 22nd October with 150 at Flamborough on 12th October and 120 there on 16th. At Spurn 180 were present on 16th October with 100 on 17th and 105 on 23rd. 140 at Mount Pleasant, Doncaster on 31st December. 70 at Wilsic on 27th November with 60 at Cowden on 11th October. Many locations reported parties of 15 to 40 birds during these last three months.

#### **Serin** *Serinus serinus*

A single female/immature at Flamborough on 10th August (PAL) and a single bird at Bempton on 22nd October (VAL).

#### **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

The only comment regarding breeding was of an increase at Flamborough; otherwise status would appear to be unchanged. Passage along the coast was evident on 22nd October when 140 were at Flamborough; 1230 south at Spurn and 369 east along the Humber at Sunk Island. The largest flocks reported were 200 at Stainbrough on 17th January; 200 at Thrybergh on 24th August; 200 at Bardsey on 18th October with 150 at Carthwick Wood on 28th November; 150 at Settle on 29th August and 150 at Angler's C.P. on 17th December.

#### **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

No comments received concerning breeding status thus assumed to be unchanged. Few flocks of any size during the early months with 40 in Concord Park, Sheffield, on 15th February being the largest reported. Spring passage along the coast was light with c100 at Staithes on 17th April; 81 at Spurn on 24th April and 353 south there on 2nd May whilst inland 120+ were at Farnley Lake on 7th March and 50 at Copgrove on 19th. Autumn passage at Spurn peaked 8th October with 251 flying south whilst along the Humber at Sunk Island, 66 flew west on 17th September with 68 east there on 25th and 88 east on 22nd October. 135 at Edderthorpe on 27th September; up to 70 at Wath during September and 65+ at Malham Tarn on 26th September with 50 still there in mid October. Many other locations reporting parties of 20 to 45 during these latter months.

#### **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Breeds in small numbers in V.C. 63 with birds appearing at 'new' sites particularly around Barnsley; Huddersfield and Halifax. No comments received from other V.C.s though apparently unchanged in status. During the early months flocks of 15 to 35 were widespread with 40 at Hawnby on 21st February; 45 at Bretton Park on 3rd February; 45 at Hillsborough on 14th March; 50 in Adel Woods on 1st January and 60 at High Batts on 24th January with 50 still there on 14th February. Higher counts during the latter months with 100 at Worsbrough on 20th October; 100+ at Lindley Wood Res. on 25th October; 100 at Ripon on 29th November; 100 at Bardsey on 31st December and 90 at Breary Marsh on 20th September. Passage was reported from the coast and estuary with 91 south at Flamborough on 17th September when 105 flew west at Sunk Island; at Spurn 160 south on 20th September; 150 on 21st; in October, 164 south on 22nd and 120 on 27th. Inland, 72 west at Redmires on 31st August with 63 west there on 25th September.

#### **Linnet** *Carduelis cannabina*

No comments received concerning breeding status. Widespread during both ends of the year with 200 to 250 at Elsecarr on 20th February as the highest number until spring passage when up to 500 at Filey in April; 260, mostly north, at Staithes on 17th April when 393 flew south at Spurn. 405 at Flamborough on 31st July with 300+ on several days until late September after which this species became scarce there. Up to 500 at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 5th September whilst at Spurn southerly passage was noted on many days with 400 on 27th September; 525 on 8th October and 504 on 22nd. Along the Humber at Sunk Island 430 flew west on 18th September with 799 east there on 25th September and 317 east on 22nd October. 410 flew south at Redmires in three hours on 25th September with 477 south on 9th October whilst 260 moved southwest over Concord Park on 8th.

Flocks of 300 at Stubbing Moor on 26th September with 400 at Bolton Ings on 13th September; 400 at Compton on 11th November and 420 at Roughbirchworth, Penistone, on 26th September.

#### **Twite** *Carduelis flavirostris*

Assumed to be no change in status; no comments being received. Small numbers along the coast, mainly during the latter months, with 39 at Spurn on 3rd October; 28 on 5th; 40 on 10th; 31 on 23rd with 21 on 24th and 19 on 27th. 20 on 19th November. Flamborough 24 on 3rd October with 20 on 5th; 53 on 6th and 34 on 8th. One to nine reported from Bempton; Filey and Hornsea Mere on one or more days. In V.C. 63, 26 at Blacktoft on 24th January whilst the wintering flock at Blackmoorfoot peaked at 104 on 31st January. Birds in this V.C. returned early to the breeding areas with 30 at Oxygrains Clough on 14th February; 40 there on 7th April when 56 were also at Booth Dam Quarry. 71 at Broadstones on 9th April with 70 at March Haigh, Marsden on 13th and 50 near Halifax during the last weeks of this month. In autumn, flocks were reported from Scammonden with 70 on 2nd and 100 at Digley on 25th September. A similar situation in V.C. 64 though flocks in the early months were smaller; during latter months 100 at Halton Gill on 6th September with 80 at Duck Street Quarry on 17th; 250 at Ribblehead on 9th August where, because of the mild winter, six were still present on 15th December – the first winter record of this species in the Settle area.

#### **Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea*

Bred at Flamborough for the first time in over a decade and no records from Mickletown Ings where formerly common otherwise no comments to suggest any change in status.

No large parties reported from V.C. 61 with light coastal passage reported in autumn when 76 were at Flamborough on 18th September with 113 south at Spurn on that date and 182 there on 8th October. Throughout the year, in V.C. 63, parties were small excepting 130 roosting at Redmires Res. on 11th January with 175 there on 6th February and 50 on 1st April; 100 at Wyning Brook on 7th January; 150 in Haw Park on 2nd March where 142 were present on 11th April; flocks of 50 at Tinsley; Deffer Wood and Little Don Valley on one or more occasion. Many flocks of up to 30 reported from V.C. 64 with 90+ at Farnley Lake on 7th March and 100 there on 10th April; 50 at Hay-a-Park on 19th September being the largest party in the latter months.

Birds showing the characteristics of the nominate race *C.f.flammea*; Mealy Redpoll; were reported from Flamborough on six occasions in May with two on 14th; three days in August (two on 17th); on four days in September with two on 11th; 17 on 15th and 29 on 18th; 12 birds in October with six on 6th and seven on 5th November. Single birds at Spurn on 28th October; 19th and 23rd November and 13th December. At Filey on 24th October with three on 26th and two on 30th. One at Kilnsea on 30th October. In V.C. 63 at North Dean, Halifax on 5th March; two at Blacktoft on 2nd October with one on 14th and 21st; one at High Green; Barnsley, on 13th November with three on 26th. In V.C. 64, single birds at Fairburn Ings on 3rd October and 6th November.

#### **Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

Bred in Dalby and Wykeham Forests in V.C. 62 and in V.C. 63 in the Little Don Valley with probable breeding at a further three locations. Scarce in V.C. 61 with 11 at Flamborough on 23rd June being the largest party; four at Tophill Low Res. on 31st July; three there on 16th August with two in Hornsea on both 5th and 23rd August. In V.C. 62; 20 at Eliker's Nursery (Wykeham) on 28th January and 15 at Low Dalby on 24th May. Quite widespread in V.C. 63 with 14 at Midhope on 21st August whilst during the period June/August some 180 were reported passing over Redmires with peak counts of 14 on 14th June; 18 on 30th June; 26 on 19th July and 29 on 9th August. Elsewhere, 15 at Strines Res. on 6th July; seven at Redmires on 16th September and seven at Bingley between 3rd and 9th November.

In V.C. 64, 12 in Lindley Woods on 12th June with 11 at Timble Ings on 10th July where 70 were counted on 31st July and then 15 on 2nd August. Eccup Res. recorded 12 on 24th July and a similar number in the Valley of Desolation on 3rd August. Up to 12 in V.C. 65 in Arkengarthdale throughout the autumn.

**Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Single birds at Spurn on 27th/28th May (BRS, NAB *et al*) and on several days between 15th and 25th June (NAB, BRS *et al*). One at Flamborough on 15th September (PAL).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

From comments received there appears to be no change in status. Only small numbers reported from both V.C. 61 and 62 though 14 at Tophill Low Res. on 22nd November. Slightly higher counts in the other V.C.s though 50 at High Batts N.R. on 25th September was exceptional. 26 at Cragg Vale on 1st October with 19 at Wath on 25th December; 18 there on 30th January with 16 at Rivelin Hagg on 7th January.

Birds considered to belong to the nominate race *P.p.pyrrhula* were recorded at Flamborough on 11th and 28th October; Filey from 25th to 31st October and at Hornsea on 24th October.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Bred, in V.C. 63, at Stainbrough (one pair); Wooley Woods (four pairs) and Out Moor Holt near Doncaster (one pair) with probable breeding occurring at Wilsic; Edlington Wood; Potteric Carr; Melton Wood and Bessacarr.

The only records from V.C. 61 were from the Spurn area with one at Spurn on 13th October; one in Kilnsea on 14th; one at Spurn from 20th to 24th. One in Kilnsea on 21st; one at Spurn on 27th and another on 28th. In V.C. 62, one at Hawnby on 21st March with two at Low Dalby on 31st March; two at Roundham Park on 3rd December and four at Cropton on 7th December. Quite widespread in V.C. 63 with six at Roche Abbey on 17th February and 11 there on both 28th and 29th March; up to 11 present at Stainbrough all year; nine at Rockley on 6th February with 16 there on 7th; 22 at Wooley Woods on 9th January and 20 there on 9th February. In the latter months seven at Rockley on 27th December with up to seven in Wooley Woods to the end of the year.

Present at Studley/Fountains Abbey in V.C. 64 until April with 12 on 17th January and up to 17 in February; nine present there on 28th December; one to five birds being reported from a further ten locations in this V.C. all in the eastern part of the area along the limestone ridge. In V.C. 65, one at Lownethwaite Bridge, Richmond on 1st June (a very scarce bird in this area).

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

During the early months of the year small numbers were reported along the coast with 22 at Burniston on 7th February; seven at Bempton on 2nd April and 18 there on 8th; six at Flamborough on 2nd January; four at Barmston on 16th with nine at Aldbrough on 1st January; 21 on 7th March with five on 14th. Three at Spurn on 1st January with ten there on 10th. The first of the autumn were single birds at both Flamborough and Spurn on 15th September; the former then having only 53 birds during October with peaks of 11 on 18th and nine on 23rd; Spurn reporting one to three on several days with nine as their peak on 22nd October. 24 were at Kilnsea on this same day with seven at Filey.

Inland; in V.C. 63; single birds were in the Huddersfield area at Slaithwaite Moor on 20th January and Oxygrains Beck on 25th. A series of records from Angler's/Wintersett from 7th February when two females were present being joined by a male on 13th and a second male on 15th, all four remaining until 19th March when a third male arrived. This party then split up but up to three birds were seen on many occasions until 7th April; it is considered that six individuals were involved (PS, GJS *et al*). Single at Broomhill Flash from 8th to 17th April with one at Wombwell Ings on 15th. (JMT, RT, JHG *et al*). Singles at Blacktoft on 25th and 27th October with one at Angler's from 4th to 20th November whilst single birds flew over Burbage on 13th and 19th November.

In V.C. 64, single birds at Agill Pike on 16th January (KM) – the first record for Harrogate; at Malham Tarn on 30th October (BS) – the first record for that location – and one at Fairburn Ings on 22nd November.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

In the early months 115 at Barmston on 6th January with 56 there on 16th February; 33 at Tunstall on 26th February otherwise only small counts along the coast. 50+ feeding at East Lutton (near Malton) on 26th February. Further inland, ten on Slaithwaite Moor on 14th January with birds present there from 13th January until 23rd February. 60 at Blacktoft on 10th January with 52 on 13th but only two the following day.

70 at Barmston on 17th December had decreased to 45 by 26th otherwise most records along the coast during the latter months were of passing birds; particularly in November when 82 were reported from Flamborough on 6th with 52 on 12th; 192 on 26th; 110 on 27th. 40 on 3rd December and 80 there on 27th. Filey reported 71 on 13th November with 52 on 19th and 115 on 26th though Spurn only recorded 43 on 13th November. 30 at Ravenscar on 3rd November.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

No change in breeding status or distribution reported.

The largest parties reported in V.C. 61 were at Atwick with up to 120 present during January/February and 150 in December. 95 recorded at Flamborough on 10th January. Only small numbers reported in V.C. 62 with 40 at Thorn Park on 6th February the highest. Several locations in V.C. 63 recorded over 100 birds with Wath having this number on 13th January and 14th February; 113 on 20th April with 120 on both 22nd October and 12th December. 200 at Misson on 18th/19th January; 100 at Wintersett on 15th January; 140 at Carlton on 7th March; 150 at Wadsworth Wood on 29th December and 240 at Edderthorpe on 22nd December. 300 at High Batts N.R. on 24th January was the highest count reported from V.C. 64 with 85 at Fairburn Ings on 17th January and 80 at Farnham on 23rd December.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

Single birds at Flamborough on 9th and 14th May (PAL, AMA, JCL, RCH, VAL, ASB, MN, PJW) and in autumn on 8th (AG); 9th September (JMP, SR) and 13th October (PAL).

**Pine Bunting** *Emberiza leucocephalos*

A single immature male at Flamborough on 17th October (PAL, WEO, JMP, SR). The second record for Yorkshire and the 13th for Britain.

**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

A single bird at Spurn on 18th October was not accepted by the *British Birds Records Committee* (NC, JH).

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

The only comment received concerning status was from Tophill Low Res. where it was considered that the breeding numbers may have declined slightly and Wath where 52 pairs bred compared with 89 in 1981. 135 pairs bred at Blacktoft with 24 at Wintersett; 43 at Fairburn Ings with c20 at Mickletown Ings. 'Common breeder' at Hornsea Mere where no estimate of population made though stated as scarce in winter months. Flocks reported during the non breeding season were up to 100 at Blacktoft until March and 260 there on 26th December. 60 at Fairburn from January to March with 85 there on 2nd November. 65 at Worsbrough on 30th October. An influx noted at Flamborough during October with 65 reported on 15th and 50 on 23rd.

**Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melaocephala*

*Addition* to the 1987 Report: A male at Patrington on 3rd October constitutes the second county record and the second in 1987. (AM and PMW). Accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee though no details have been received by the YNU.

**Corn Bunting** *Miliaria calandra*

No comments on status received from V.C.s 61 and 62. In V.C. 63 considered to be scarce or thinly distributed in the Huddersfield; Doncaster; Sheffield and Rotherham areas; apparently non-existent around Halifax and Bradford. Status unchanged in V.C. 64 excepting around Leeds where a slight increase was noted though this is thought to be more due to increased observer coverage than an actual increase in birds. In V.C. 65 this species is basically a bird of the Vale of Mowbray which only just penetrates west into the mouths of Swaledale and Wensleydale to about a line from Richmond to Leyburn.

120 were reported at Atwick during November and December increasing during the latter days of the year to c150. 80 near Scarborough on 8th February. The largest parties in V.C. 63 being c200 at Bolton Ings on 14th February with 130 at Mount Pleasant on 31st December. No large flocks in V.C. 64 though 58 flew south over Fairburn Ings on 22nd November.

*Addition* to the 1987 Report: 160 near Tophill Low Res. on 6th December.

## The Need for Field Descriptions

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

To maintain this accuracy contributors are reminded that all records of rare or uncommon and difficult species are considered by the Reports Committee before being accepted for publication, and where appropriate forwarded to *British Birds* for their decision.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers will submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in the field, before reference to any text books, the locality, date and time, habitat, weather conditions, optical aids used, distance from the bird, period of observation, species present for comparison if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms based upon those accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder for submitting details of any of the species listed below.

### Uncommon and Difficult Species

Great Northern Diver	Pomarine Skua
Black-throated Diver	Long-tailed Skua
Slavonian Grebe	Mediterranean Gull
Black-necked Grebe	Ring-billed Gull
Cory's Shearwater	Iceland Gull
Great Shearwater	Sabine's Gull
Storm Petrel	Roseate Tern
Leach's Petrel	Black Guillemot
Purple Heron	Woodlark
White Stork	Richard's Pipit
Bean Goose	Tawny Pipit
Red-crested Pochard	Bluethroat
Ferruginous Duck	Cetti's Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Savi's Warbler
Red Kite	Aquatic Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Marsh Warbler
Goshawk	Icteric Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Melodious Warbler
Golden Eagle	Barred Warbler
Hobby	Yellow-browed Warbler
Spotted Crake	Firecrest
Crane	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Stone Curlew	Golden Oriole
Kentish Plover	Chough
Temminck's Stint	Raven
Pectoral Sandpiper	Serin
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Scarlet Rosefinch
Red-necked Phalarope	Cirl Bunting
Grey Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting

### British Birds Rarities

A complete list of species, descriptions of which are required by *British Birds* before publication in the annual Report on rare birds in Great Britain, was last published in *British Birds*, Vol. 81 (1988) Number 9 pages xv and xvi.

### Races and other unusual occurrences

The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of common species, or to support records of migrant birds seen out of season and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

## Local Reports

The following local society reports for 1988 have been received and those readers requiring more detailed information on the areas concerned should consult these.

### Barnsley Area Bird Report

Birds in Calderdale (Halifax Scientific Society)

Birds in Huddersfield (Huddersfield Birdwatchers Club)

Birds in the Sheffield Area (Sheffield Bird Study Group)

Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve

Bradford Naturalists' Society

Bradford Ornithological Group

Castleford and District Naturalists' Society

Craven Naturalists' and Scientific Society

Doncaster Bird Report

Fairburn Ings RSPB Reserve

Filey Brigg Ornithological Group

Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society

Leeds Birdwatchers' Club

Spurn Bird Observatory

Tophill Low Wildlife Advisory Group

Wharfedale Naturalists' Group

Settle Bird Club

Reports were also received from individuals or groups for their particular areas being as follows: Bempton Cliffs RSPB Reserve; Flamborough Ornithological Group; Hornsea Mere RSPB Reserve; Mickletown Ings; Pugney's; Sunk Island; Wath Ings and Wintersett Res.

List of contributors who have supplied records included in the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). The co-operation of these observers and the very many others who submitted records to their local societies is very much appreciated.

J. Ackroyd; T. Adams; N. W. Addey; D. P. Adkin; G. Alderson; K. J. Allison; S. Allison; A. M. Allport; C. E. Andrassy; R. H. Appleby; E. Appleton; P. A. Ardron; B. Armitage; J. S. Armitage; Miss J. E. Atkinson; L. Auckland; K. Baldridge; D. C. Barker; J. Barker; M. Barnett; G. M. Batten; J. B. Baxter; J. Bell; N. A. Bell; G. R. Bennett; B. Bentley; A. Bernard; D. Beaumont; J. Beverage; B. Bielby; C. Bielby; C. Biltcliffe; R. P. Blagden; D. Bowes; J. J. Bowley; P. Bradley; C. Braham; D. J. Britton; V. Brown; H. O. Bunce; A. S. Butler; D. Butterfield; D. Bywater; P. J. Carlton; G. Carr; G. M. Carr; G. P. Catley; A. Cawthron; T. D. Charlton; S. Chippendale; W. A. Clarke; J. C. Clarkson; N. Cleese; E. W. Clubley; A. Clunas; S. Cocharane; J. Coleman; A. R. Collins; T. Collins; J. M. Cooper; J. W. Cooper; D. W. Cottee; R. P. Council; Miss F. E. Crackles; A. Credland; K. R. Crooks; R. Crosby; I. Crowther; R. J. Croxton; J. Cudworth; M. Cunningham; P. Cunningham; M. Curry; W. F. Curtis; D. B. Cutts; J. E. Dale; S. G. Davies; M. J. & J. P. Dawson; K. Denny; S. Denny; M. L. Denton; M. Dixon; T. E. Dixon; T. Dolan; R. Donner; P. Dove; N. & M. Duck; W. Dudhill; P. J. Dunn; K. A. Dutton; W. B. Dye; R. Eckersley; T. A. Ede; J. Edwards; C. Ellis; T. M. England; B. C. Eversham; R. Evison; S. Exley; C. Featherstone; T. Feltham; M. G. Fenner; G. W. Follows; A. Forsyth; I. Forsyth; M. Francis; R. M. Fray; S. Ganton; A. Gardiner; A. J. Gardiner; J. Garbutt; S. Gear; I. Glaves; J. Glendinning; J. H. Goddard; B. K. Good; K. S. Good; C. Gorman; W. Gott; A. G. Gough; K. R. Gould; A. Grieve; P. R. Griffin; D. Grist; J. Grist; M. J. Grunwell; Miss M. C. Hall; M. C. Hall; M. Hammond; R. C. Harbird; J. Hardacre; P. R. Harris; B. Harrison; P. Harrison; R. C. Hart; J. Harwood; I. Hawkins; M. Hayes; K. Hayhow; D. Hazard; B. Hepplewhite; D. Herringshaw; J. Hewitt; S. Hey; R. D. Hill; P. M. Hill; C. Hind; H. Hobbs; C. J. Hobbs; M. J. Hobbs; D. G. Hobson; T. L. Hobson; J.

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